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Gardener brightens up the day for patients

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## Focus on town

The latest community news from Willenhall

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## Mix it up

Girl band bringing tour to Black Country

See page 30



## Woman is jailed for setting fire to her flat

A WOMAN has been jailed for three years and four months after starting a fire at a flat in Walsall that put lives at risk and caused £7,500 worth of damage.

Debra Neely hurled items out of a window, damaging a parked car below, before setting light to the curtains of the first-floor property in Caldmore Road, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard on Tuesday.

Police arrived to discover that the 38-year-old had barricaded herself in the flat.

Prosecutor Mark Rees continued: "When officers managed to open the living room door they felt a rush of heat."

"After a struggle, the police managed to get her out of the property and the fire was extinguished."

"She later admitted that she was drunk and had been taking drugs."

Neely, who had a previous conviction for arson during which she set light to a bedsit in 2007, admitted barricading the door of the flat but had no recollection of throwing items out of the window, the court was told.

Mr Scott Ashdown, defending, said: "This was not the behaviour of somebody acting rationally."

### Cocaine

"She had been drinking copiously, had smoked cannabis and then took crack cocaine."

Neely, of Wednesbury Road, Pleck, who had numerous previous convictions for dishonesty, violence and prostitution, admitted arson while reckless as to whether life was endangered and causing criminal damage on May 26.

She was jailed by Judge Helen Hughes, who told her: "You have an appalling record of offences of all sorts going back over 20 years and the downward spiral of your life culminated in this offence, which occurred when you had reached rock bottom."

"Regardless of whether it was an impulsive action fuelled by drink, drugs and a wish to end your life, this caused serious risk, not only to yourself but to other people," she added.

# CIVIC RECEPTION FOR GOLDEN GIRL

**GOLD medal winning swimming sensation Ellie Simmonds has "put Walsall on the map", as it emerged celebrations are already being planned in her home town.**

A civic reception will be held to celebrate the teenager's successes at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. It has also been revealed the swimming pool at her former primary school in Aldridge will be named after her.

Staff at Cooper and Jordan, in The Green, said the 17-year-old was a great role model for youngsters at the school.

Ellie, who grew up in Aldridge but trains in Swansea, has been one of the biggest success stories of the Paralympic Games, grabbing headlines with her world-record beating times in the pool.

It has been predicted the swimmer could net more than £500,000 in sponsorship deals following her success.

Mayor of Walsall Councilor Dennis Anson said Ellie was "fantastic" and said watching her storm to victory had been an emotional experience.

## Crisis meeting over £1 taxi fares scheme

BLACK cab drivers will meet later this month to have another look at a failing scheme which was launched to boost trade.

The scheme allows people to travel by taxi to Walsall town centre for £1.

Bosses say there has been little interest in the Town for a Pound scheme which was launched three months ago.

Mirza Khalid, chairman of the Hackney Carriage Association in Walsall, said the lack of interest may be a sign of the times.

### Report by Catherine Dalton

tional experience.

He said he would like to hold a civic reception for her.

"We would like to celebrate her success here in Walsall," he said. "The only problem will be trying to find the time as she is going to be very in demand."

Deputy leader of Walsall Council Adrian Andrew said: "I went to look at the first gold postbox in the town with my children and they were so excited, there were people around it taking photographs."

### Proud

"Ellie's success is something that has put Walsall on the map and is something we can all be very proud of."

Ellie has been roared on to success at a packed out aquatics centre, with her parents Val and Steve also cheering her on.

Prime Minister David Cameron was at poolside to roar his support on Monday.

Mr Simmonds on Tuesday spoke of his pride in his daughter's performances.

"She was amazing - yet again," he said.

"We're so proud of her and are still full of emotion from Saturday's Gold medal performance. Just talking about it makes me fill up."

Ellie hit the headlines at the Beijing Games in 2008 when she won two golds.

In 2009 she became the youngest person to get the MBE aged just 14.

See report on page 52



Walsall's Ellie Simmonds proudly displays her second gold medal of the Games, after she won the SM6 200m medley in the Aquatics Centre in London on Monday



PM David Cameron congratulates Ellie on her achievement. He presented her with her second gold medal and kissed her after cheering her on to success in London

## Postbox is Ellie's stamp of approval



At the gold post box is Jo Yarnall, of Aldridge, with her children, who go to Ellie Simmonds' former school, from left, Rachel, Hannah and Rebecca

A GOLDEN postbox marking swimmer Ellie Simmonds' Olympic gold medal success has been unveiled in her home town of Aldridge.

Royal Mail has painted the postbox in High Street gold in recognition of the teen's Paralympic Games success. The achievement means her home town has become the first in the West Midlands to boast a golden postbox. Meanwhile, first class stamps featuring Ellie's image are also being produced.

Visitors to the town were delighted by the new landmark. Sarah Hughes, aged 37, of Moorfields Close, Aldridge, said: "It's very exciting that the paint box will be painted gold. We walk past here every morning with the children on the way to school, it's inspiring a whole new generation."

Clare Cooper, a primary school teacher, from Pelsall, said: "This is fantastic news and an absolute credit for Ellie after her brilliant performance, we are all so proud of her, she really is inspiring a young generation."

The postbox unveiling came on the day Ellie's former school Cooper and Jordan School announced it would be naming its pool after her. Learning mentor Wendy Methley said: "She brought her medals in after Beijing and went into assembly to see the children. She was a vibrant girl with a bubbly personality."

## Work set to start on park's water jets

WORK on the delayed revamp of the historic Walsall Arboretum Lido will begin next week.

The park attraction, which has been used by families since 1953, is due to be replaced with interactive water jets after it was condemned as unhygienic.

The £250,000 project was initially due to be completed by the summer but was delayed and now will start on Tuesday.

It is expected to be complete by the middle of November.

The new area for the town's premier park was originally expected to be ready in time for the school holidays.

Leisure chiefs said the decision was taken to minimise disruption during the busy summer months while the main £7.6 million restoration of the Arboretum continued.

Walsall Council leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said: "Work starts on site on September 11, completion is expected mid-November. The contractor is Ustigate Limited."

The initial scheme was revised to add in a re-circulation system, allowing water to be recycled, which was considered a more cost-effective project.

The lido dates back more than 50 years but in 1994 was developed into the Treasure Island playground.

## Empty shops figures worry

WALSALL has the second highest number of empty shops in the Midlands, according to new figures.

The vacancy rate in the town is now 29.6 per cent, statistics from the Local Data Company have shown, with only Nottingham higher.

The rate is up 3.6 per cent this year, with Wolverhampton also in the 10 worst-performing centres.

It comes as efforts have been made to encourage entrepreneurs into Walsall with free rent and business rate relief introduced under a £100,000 scheme.

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# Thug is jailed after biting man's ear

A THUG who bit off part of another man's ear during a "savage" attack in Walsall town centre has been jailed for six-and-a-half years.

Jonathan Williams, aged 34, and Rhys Maiden, 21, chased Jonathan Grant before launching an attack in the early hours of April 2 last year, Stafford Crown Court heard. The pair had previously been out drinking in the town centre.

Miss Amy Jacobs, prosecuting,

said they both punched and kicked their victim before Williams bit off part of his victim's right ear.

Maiden, of Dartmouth Avenue, Bloxwich, was also handed a 23-week prison sentence, suspended for two years, for his part in the attack.

Mr Grant also suffered bruising and the court was told that his ear had been permanently disfigured.

Williams, of no fixed abode, had denied a charge of wounding with

intent but was convicted after trial at Stafford Crown Court.

Maiden admitted assault causing actual bodily harm but denied kicking the victim. He claimed he had seen Williams with a cut to his head and attacked Mr Grant because he thought he had caused the injury.

In mitigation for Maiden, Miss Laura Hobson said he was usually a "polite and helpful" man and that

his behaviour had been out of character and "foolish".

Judge Mark Eades, sentencing Williams, said he had been "savage". He told him: "You took it upon yourself to bite his ear. That was a conscious act. You had to take his ear in your mouth and clamp down on it."

As well as the suspended prison sentence, Maiden was ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work and pay £600 costs.

# Poachers back to take fish at woodland pool

FISH are being stolen from a Walsall pool, amid fears people are also camping at the site. Reports have been made of people pitching up tents at Moorcroft Wood, Moxley.

Trawling nets have been found the the public have been urged to be vigilant and report any sightings of nets or equipment left at the scene. But they are being asked to leave them alone so thieves can be caught in the act.

## Talks fail to protect bus route getting cut

EMERGENCY talks to save a bus service through Walsall have fallen through. The X31 Arriva, which links Cannock and Birmingham via Walsall, ended on Saturday.

The route was due to be axed on June 2 as bosses said it was under-used.

But transport authority Centro and Staffordshire County Council stepped in to fund it while discussions took place.

But Arriva Midlands spokesman Keith Myatt said: "We have considered numerous initiatives to retain service X31, unfortunately none have shown to be sustainable in the long term. "We apologise for the inconvenience this decision will have."

Willenhall North councillor Ian Shires voiced his disappointment and said the service had proved popular.

Centro's area manager, Babs Coombes said every effort had been made to try to keep the service.

"Unfortunately low passenger numbers have left the X31 commercial unviable and the route has also failed to meet the criteria needed to justify a subsidy of taxpayers' money," she said.

A similar problem happened in September 2010, with carp, tench and roach all being poached.

Fresh reports have emerged over the past few weeks, with concerns the problem may have returned, despite previous efforts to stamp it out.

Paul Bott, Independent councillor for Darlaston South, branded it a "disgrace" and called for something to be done.

"We've had several people in the Moxley area tell us about it in the past couple of weeks," he said.

"We've been told people are camping in the wood and nicking the fish."

### Urged

"It's disgraceful. Moorcroft Wood has been recognised as a proper fishery recently and so it's not fair for this kind of thing to be happening."

"Something needs to be done to try to stamp this out."

Councillor Bott urged people to report any thefts or suspicious activity.

Anglers are allowed to fish at the pool as long as they have a rod licence.

Leisure chief Anthony Harris said: "At the turn of the year we received a number of reports claiming people had been seen walking onto the reserve and putting nets down in the pool."

"We believe the offenders visit the site at dusk and return later in the day to collect the catch."

## Help for young jobseekers



Ready to meet youngsters at the looking for work event were, back from left, Inderjit Nijjer, Mary Chandler and Natasha Clarke, front, Toni Thacker and Rachel Phillips

SCORES of young jobseekers were given the chance to meet with training and apprentice providers during an event in Walsall.

Jobcentre Plus, Walsall Housing Group and Walsall Council teamed up for the event at the Council House, on Friday. Jobseekers aged between 18 and 24 were able to get advice and support.

Organisations at the event included

Walsall Works, Walsall Adult and Community College, Graduate Advantage, Synapse and Succeed Academy.

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "It's one of our aims to create and safeguard jobs and here we're helping to do just that. Apprenticeships very much offer a win-win situations for local employers and local young people."

## Restaurant planned at dance site

A RESTAURANT and shop creating more than half a dozen new jobs are being earmarked for a former dance studio in Walsall.

The run-down building will be transformed in the shopping parade off West Bromwich Road, Caldmore, under plans submitted to Walsall Council.

At least eight jobs will be created under the scheme for a restaurant and shop in a bid to help revive the area.

Opening hours would range between 9am and 12am across the two units. The application has been put forward for consideration by council planners.

A report to planning bosses reads: "The existing premises is currently in disuse and unoccupied with vulnerability to vandalism and trespassing for unknown activities which could possibly lead to crime."

"Due to the commercial nature of the surrounding area, it is considered that the proposal would not lead to a significant increase in noise, disturbance or traffic generation."

## Store base for breast screening

A BREAST screening service has been introduced at Walsall town centre's Tesco.

NHS Walsall and the Breast Screening Service are working with the store and will have a unit placed there until October.

Women aged 50 to 70 and registered with Central Walsall GPs can attend the Littleton Street supermarket.

Joanne Wood, of NHS Walsall, said of the screening: "It takes a few minutes and could save your life."

Women who are registered with GPs at Ambar Medical Centre, Palfrey Health Centre, Pleck Health Centre, Sai Medical and The Limes Medical centres, are invited to attend.

Patients with Brace Street Health Centre, Sycamore House Medical Centre, Little London Surgery, Wharf Family Practice and Broadway Medical Centre can also use the service.

## Patrols increase

POLICE have stepped up patrols at George Rose Park, Darlaston, following complaints of youths drinking alcohol and causing minor criminal damage around a youth shelter.

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## Plans bid for larger lab block

SCIENCE blocks at a top Walsall school are set to be extended after current classrooms were branded "significantly smaller than recommended".

Work would be carried out at Queen Mary's Grammar School, Sutton Road.

An application submitted to council planners said the present science classrooms are too small and so restrict the types of lessons taught.

A statement submitted by Rush Davis Chartered Architects said: "The school's science accommodation does not comply with the normal standards advised by the Department for Education with a number of the existing science laboratories being significantly smaller than recommended."

"This restricts the size of groups that can be taught in them and the types of lessons - more theoretical and less practical."

It added science was a popular and successful subject for the school's 680 pupils, meaning improvements in the accommodation are "a top priority".

Extending the laboratories would bring them up to the recommended size using a little-used paved area next to the teaching block.

## Delight at expansion

THE expansion of a plastic pipework company into a new base in Darlaston has been welcomed by council chiefs. John Davidson Pipes is to hire the former Hewden Hire Depot, Church Street.

It will replace a single storey building with a workshop with a trade counter and office. Up to eight people will be employed.

Walsall Council planners agreed after there were no objections from the community to the scheme.

Head of planning David Elsworth said: "The use of the premises for storage and distribution purposes with ancillary trade counter is acceptable."

## Training open day

A TRAINING centre in Brownhills will hold an open day to mark its 20th anniversary. Nova Training, in Maybrook Road Industrial Estate, will host the event on September 21 from 10am to 3pm. Visitors can try skills like bricklaying.

# Markets aim to boost trade in town centres

WALSALL'S first-ever night market will be held on October 25.

Up to 50 stalls selling vintage, handmade and craft goods will be set up for the inaugural event. Inquiries have already been received from traders keen to take on a pitch.

The market will be held from 5pm to 9pm on The Bridge.

The idea of a night market was drawn up as part of the bid to become a Mary Portas

pilot town. But when Walsall Council missed out on the funding to help boost the town centre, bosses decided to plough ahead with plans for the market anyway.

Carl Mitchell, from Bonce Salon and a member of the Walsall Town Team, said: "Although previously we said the night market would be available in September, this new date will be nearer the festive season and give us more time to ensure it's a success."

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "We're confident the scheme will be a success and is exactly what the town centre needs."

Meanwhile, an Italian market will return to Willenhall, following a "hugely successful" first visit last year.

Italia in Piazza will come back to the town on November 9.

Councillor Andrew said: "Last year's Italian market in Willenhall proved to be a

massive success and so we always planned to bring it back again.

"Italian food is very popular and we are always keen to push events like this, which offer people the chance to experience something a bit different."

"I'm sure Italia in Piazza will capture the imagination of local shoppers and attract visitors from elsewhere."

Traders in the town have also welcomed the move and hope it will boost footfall.

# Council in rethink on car parking charges

**PARKING charges at council-owned town centre car parks could be reduced in Walsall town centre under new plans, it has been revealed.**

Walsall Council bosses have announced the review of charges following private company NCP's price reduction on one of its town centre sites.

The move would cut into the £1 million plus that is generated for the council through its car parking charges.

However, all money made is ploughed back into maintaining the town's car parks.

The plans have been announced after NCP reduced prices at its Freer Street site to £3 a day and free on Sundays.

## Compete

A review of car parking in the heart of the borough is expected to be concluded within weeks.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird added: "We are looking at the possibility of reducing our charges. We have got to compete."

Transport chief Tom Ansell said a trial reduction of £2.80 for four hour stays has remained in place since it was introduced last winter and said reductions were "being looked at along with all the options".

by Craig Hughes

But he insisted: "The money that is generated from car parks goes towards maintaining car parks. It is not a tax-gaining revenue."

It emerged earlier this year that the council, which is responsible for around 25 per cent of parking spaces in the town, is also looking at locations of car parks which could see some underused ones closed and moved.

Those sites struggling to attract motorists could be sold off.

Private operators have also been in talks with the council over changes including a new multi-storey car park.

The opening of the new Tesco with free parking led to concerns that drivers were using the supermarket's parking instead of council car parks.

## Bus service is launching

A NEW bus service from Willenhall to Bilston via Darlaston will be launched later this month.

Service 30 will run hourly between Cheapside in Willenhall and Bilston bus station four days a week from September 24.

Buses will serve the Herberts Park Estate in Darlaston where people said a bus was desperately needed. The estate used to be served by the 339 service which was dropped following a review.

The new service will be operated by Walsall Community Transport and buses will also go via Moxley High Street.

Walsall Community Transport chief officer John Elliot said: "This particular service will get into some estates that are not currently served. There was a big call for this."



Delighted patient Sham Akhtar with gardener Keith Collis whose marvellous display of sunflowers has brought a ray of sunshine to people at Pleck Health Centre

## Bright idea is a sunny delight

A GOODWILL gesture by a patient has brought a ray of sunshine to staff and visitors at a health centre.

A line of more than a dozen colourful sunflowers has been planted just outside the Lloyds Pharmacy at Pleck Health Centre, Walsall.

Staff at the Oxford Street centre said it had transformed an area which had been a hotspot for littering.

## Cheered

The mystery gardener has been revealed as Keith Collis, aged 69, who is a committee member on South Walsall Allotment Association and patients have expressed thanks to him for brightening up their day.

Patient Sham Akhtar noticed the flowers while turning up for an appointment.

The 43-year-old nursery nurse, of Phillip Road, Bescot, said: "When I saw these flowers it just cheered me up."

Practice manager Namita Sinha, said: "People had been throwing rubbish in that area but since he has planted the flowers the littering has stopped."

## NEWS in brief

### Well stocked up with winter salt

EXTRA salt has been stocked up by Walsall Council chiefs ahead of winter with more than 4,000 tons in storage.

Highways bosses have prepared for the impending bad weather by buying in supplies to help keep roads flowing. Around 3,200 tons of grit were purchased last year with the winter service operated from the Brownhills depot, which opened just over 12 months ago.

In a report to councillors transport chief Tom Ansell said: "At the new depot we are fully stocked for the forthcoming season with more than 4,000 tons in store."

### Teens challenge the stereotypes

A GROUP of teenagers will be raising awareness of stereotyping at an event in Walsall town centre.

The 16 and 17-year-olds have been taking part in a programme called The Challenge, which aims to make a difference in the community. Teenagers will be in the town centre from 10am to 4pm on September 22 encouraging people to take part in a series of activities.

### Cyclist honours memory of Dora

A FUNDRAISER from Walsall has completed a bike ride in memory of one of Walsall's most loved figures, Sister Dora.

Glyn Marston cycled from Walsall to Hauxwell, the Yorkshire village where Sister Dora, known as Dorothy Pattison, was born. Mr Marston, of New Invention, left at 10am on August 26 and got there the next day at 10pm, having cycled for 36 hours.

### Give helping hand to Rosie's cause

BOOKS, DVDs and CDs will be sold at a church in for a charity launched in memory of Aldridge schoolgirl Rosie Ross.

The event at Aldridge Methodist Church, Anchor Road, will be on September 22 from 10am to 3pm.

Tea and cakes will be served. Proceeds will go to Rosie's Helping Hands. Admission is 50p.

### Care home grows

A CARE home in Walsall is to expand after getting the go-ahead from council planners. An additional two bedrooms and en-suites have been approved for Leighwood Care Home, Lichfield Road. It has 15 bedrooms.

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## NEWS

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



**MORE** from the Department of the Bleedin' Obvious. It is reported in an American medical journal that cannabis can lower the IQ of teenagers. If you ever doubted that, consider this, a typical entry from a cannabis website this week: "you shud smoke weed sometime...its relly fun thing 2 do trust me! i m 16 and i smoke weed all the time." And you wonder why they call it dope? □□□□□□□□

A SURVEY suggests "empty nest syndrome" may be a myth and that 80 per cent of parents have designs on their children's bedrooms. They can't wait to lose a son and gain a walk-in wardrobe. This is probably not a new thing. I have a friend who left home for university 40 years ago. He returned on his first half-term break to find his mother in the garden, burning his bed. □□□□□□□□

**HOW** easy it is to scoff at the good folk of Essex who thought they saw and heard a lion, which seems to have been nothing more than a large cat. But deep within us all is the race-memory of being hunted by savage carnivores. It doesn't take much to stir the old terror of a sabre-toothed tiger at your cave entrance. Some years ago, walking in deepest Warwickshire, I heard a deep, low growl on the other side of the hedge. It went "grrrr" and "grrrr" again and in the space of a few seconds, with the hairs rising on my neck, I became convinced there was a lion on the loose. It was utterly illogical and yet horribly convincing. As I reached the gate I looked up the field and saw a tree surgeon trying to get his chainsaw started, without much success. As he pulled the start-cord, it went "grrr" and "grrr" again. □□□□□□□□

**IS** DAVID Cameron a man or a mouse? This is the question raised by the former Tory minister Tim Yeo as the issue of a third runway at Heathrow raises its ugly head once again. In this context, a mouse is apparently someone who sticks to his manifesto promise to the people and ignores the billion-pounds lobbying of the pro-runway groups. A man, as defined by Mr Yeo, is one who tears up his promises and sells the people living near Heathrow down the river. The question, surely, is not whether Cameron is a real man but what sort of creature is Tim Yeo? □□□□□□□□

**IF** ENGLAND really needs a new runway, shoe-horning it into Heathrow in the congested western suburbs of London is surely the worst of all options. Boris's Island, the brand new mega-airport in the Thames estuary supported by the London Mayor, is the ultimate answer. But the mystery, in these days of texts and video-conferencing, is why so many business trips are made. Surely we should be flying less, not more. □□□□□□□□

**ALAN** Wilson, the Bishop of Buckingham promotes the case for gay marriage by asserting that God is not "an angry old man out to get us." Sadly, 2,000 years of church teaching rather suggests He is. The God of the Old Testament is a jealous, short-tempered deity who demands sacrifices, punishes people for the sins of their great-grandparents and rejoices in the mass slaughter of the enemies of Israel. If the Almighty is now a cheery old bloke who thinks gay marriage is cool, the least the bishop can do is explain when this remarkable change happened.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

## Canoe among debris on motorway

BE it a canoe, a bathroom suite, a fridge or animals – they have all caused hold-ups on the M6 in the region during the past 12 months.

The Highways Agency has revealed there were 1,270 reports of debris on the motorway between Junctions 7 at Great Barr and 14 at Stafford in one year alone.

A three seater sofa, bikes and a set of golf clubs were also among the

items to be removed along with 59 animals such as dogs and swans. Staff received the calls in the 12 months up to the end of July.

This was alongside the more frequent reports to remove ladders, buckets, lorry straps, wheel barrows and tyre debris. The Highways Agency has warned they can be extremely hazardous to vehicles travelling at speed and are now

urging motorists to take care when loading cars and lorries.

John McTaggart, Highways Agency head of on-road operations for northern England, said: "Our statistics clearly show that Highways Agency traffic officers regularly have to bring the M6 carriageway to a temporary halt to retrieve debris from the carriageway. Such incidents can take time

for traffic officers and the emergency services to deal with and cause delays for other road users.

"Motorists are reminded that overloaded roof racks or poorly secured loads can lead to belongings falling off onto the carriageway.

"Load them up sensibly and double-check they are secure before setting off for your safety and the safety of other road users."

## Parking for free an issue at store

THE issue of parking at the multi-million pound Tesco supermarket in Walsall remains a "complex legal and planning issue," council chiefs say.

Walsall Council said the firm was breaking planning rules by letting motorists use the 750-space site for free and talks have been held.

The superstore did change its free parking for shoppers from three to two hours. But the authority had asked for pay and display for non-shoppers to stop them leaving cars for long periods.

The issue is being looked at as the council reviews parking in the town centre.

It has emerged less than half the spaces are being filled on council-owned sites. Council leader Mike Bird, said: "We were pleased that Tesco had reduced its parking limit from three hours to two.

"It's a complex legal and planning issue and the council is heavily involved in a major review of car parks in the town centre. A report is likely to go to cabinet later in the year."

The £55 million Littleton Street supermarket opened in December 2010.

## Delight over leisure pass

LEISURE chiefs in Walsall have welcomed news the borough's four leisure centres have passed a national quality inspection.

Walsall Gala Baths, Darlaston Leisure Centre, Oak Park and Bloxwich passed the National Quality Standard for Leisure Centres.

Leisure chief, Councillor Anthony Harris, said: "We had the opportunity of a grant from the Black Country Consortium to cover the costs associated with entering the award scheme earlier this year so at no cost to the council we had all the core systems of operations inspected and passed at each leisure centre in turn. This is a fantastic achievement for the staff of the leisure centres."

## Coffee for cash

A TOTAL of £470 was raised for charity at two coffee mornings in Walsall. Christ Church, Blakenall Heath, raised £340 for the Cats' Protection League on July 21 and £130 for Midlands Air Ambulance on June 30.

## New boss pledges the best children's service

THE new boss of Walsall children's services has pledged to deliver the "very best for our children". Rose Collinson took up her new role on Monday after council chiefs have said the department would be in impeccable hands.

They praised Ms Collinson's track record.

She received national acclaim for her work as director of children's and adult services at Medway Council, Kent.

The plaudits came after she led it out of special measures prior to her resignation on July 31 this year.

In a recent inspection, the authority was found to now be performing well.

Ms Collinson is said to have a reputation for transforming the fortunes of poorly-performing children and adult services.

The new chief, a replacement for Pauline Pilkington, set out her ambitions for her time in Walsall.

"My focus is to ensure that staff, partners and stakeholders achieve the very best for our children, families and adults while progressing service value," she said.

## Challenge

Leader of Walsall Council Mike Bird welcomed her to her new role.

"Rose has considerable experience and expertise as both a director of children's services and a director for adult social care," he said.

"Her track record is impeccable."

In recent years, Ms Collinson has been a board member with the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency.

She has also led a peer challenge in Portsmouth for school improvements and as chair of the Interim Executive Board, she has moved a secondary school out of special measures.

During her time at Medway, Ms Collinson also



Rose Collinson

faced some controversies, including figures revealing 11 per cent of Medway's primary school had been served with inadequate Ofsted since May 2010.

He appointment comes after it revealed Ms Collinson will cost almost £1,000 day, with more than £200 of that going to the recruitment agency.

Working a five-day week, she will cost the council £220,000 a year.

Union chiefs have criticised the move at a time when 97 jobs are going due to savings of £12.8m.

But council leaders have defended the costs for what they said was one of the most "difficult" jobs at the council.

Councillor Bird said: "The daily rate is less than the going rate of many of the candidates looked at."

Mrs Pilkington stepped down last month in the wake of the critical report.

It has also been revealed outgoing boss she was paid a £5,739 performance-related bonus last year, on top of a salary of £114,328, expenses of £2,670 and pension payments of £14,360. Councillor Bird said she had met targets in 2010/11.

## Having a laugh for charity



Front, centre manager Sharon Felton, back, left to right, Juniper Training lead training officer Paul Nightingale and comedian and promoter Andy Nightingale

A COMEDY night will be held in Walsall to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Eight comedians, including some who have gigged at Birmingham's Glee Club and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, will all be taking to the stage at Darlaston All Active, Willenhall Road, on September 14.

Juniper Training, which has bases across the Black Country, has teamed up with

events company Comedy with Andy Nightingale and the All Active Centre to host the event.

Tickets cost £12 and include a curry and should be bought in advance.

The centre's bar will also be open until 1am. Any companies who want to support the comedy night by donating a raffle prize should call 07594106241.

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## MP raises fears on car tax contract

AN MP from Walsall has written to the Transport Secretary urging her to make sure post offices continue offering services for motorists.

Post Office Ltd is currently bidding for a 10-year new contract with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) so it can continue offering services such as driving licence applications and vehicle tax lists.

Walsall North MP David Winnick has contacted Justine Greening after receiving numerous letters from constituents.

The Labour MP said: "It appears that the Government will shortly decide whether such services will remain available and they continue to be available at post offices.

"In my letter to Justine Greening, I have pointed out that if such facilities are taken away from post offices the danger will be that far more will close down permanently; this will undoubtedly be detrimental to communities, including of course my constituency as well."

He added he expected the issue will be raised in the Commons by MPs.

## Serco sees a revenue rise

OUTSOURCING group Serco, which runs education services in Walsall, has seen a 4.3 per cent increase in revenue in the first half of this year.

But while it grew from £2.24 billion last year to £2.34bn, profits before tax were down 4.7 per cent from £123.6m to £117.8m.

The Sandwell waste collection group won £4.2bn of new contracts in the first six months and its order book stood at £19.4bn at the end of June. Serco said challenging market conditions in the US had been largely offset by the resilience of its broad portfolio.

## Scheme soon for museum

DESIGNS for a museum and history complex in Walsall are expected to be drawn up in the coming months. A feasibility study on bringing together Walsall Museum and the Local History Centre is due to be completed shortly.

Walsall Council is looking at the possibility of moving them, together with the leather museum in Littleton Street West.

# Pet ban for couple who docked puppies' tails

A COUPLE who illegally docked the tails of puppies before trying to sell the animals over the internet have been banned from keeping dogs for five years.

The seven rottweilers belonging to Joanna Dukes and Richard Devey, from Brownhills, had elastic bands wrapped around the tails to stop the blood flow so they fell off.

Walsall Magistrates Court was told it had been done for cosmetic reasons and they were being advertised for £200 each to pay for a family holiday.

Dukes, aged 43, of Friezland Lane, was

responsible for putting on the elastic bands although 31 year-old Devey had been aware she was going to carry out the action.

Magistrates also sentenced the pair to a 12-month community order with unpaid work and a bill of £792 each when they appeared before the court.

Dukes admitted a charge of removing the whole or part of a dog's tail at a previous hearing while Devey pleaded guilty to two offences of allowing and permitting tail docking to be carried out.

An RSPCA inspector visited the home of the couple, who have three children, on

April 20 this year where they found the adult dog Zena and the puppies.

In interview, Dukes said she did not know it was illegal to carry out such a practice of tail docking, while Devey said he had not seen a rottweiler with a tail.

Mr Roger Price, prosecuting for the RSPCA, said although it was not a large scale commercial venture of breeding there was a commercial element. The puppies were sold for £150 each.

He said the adult rottweiler Zena had given birth to the puppies.

Mrs Pallo Dhariwal, defending, told the

court that Dukes had grown up with rottweilers' and never seen such a dog with a tail. She added if Devey had known of potential harm or distress to the puppies he would have never allowed the docking to take place.

Mrs Dhariwal said: "They accept what they had done is actually wrong. They are regretful and remorseful of their actions."

Dukes was ordered to carry out 225 hours of unpaid work and Devey 175 hours.

The docking of tails is only allowed on working dogs and must be carried out by a vet within five days of birth.

# Jail for driver who killed four on a family day out

A DRIVER from Walsall whose car crashed into a people carrier, killing four members of the same family, has been sent behind bars after being found guilty of causing death by careless driving.

Father-of-one Gordon Dyche, from Walsall, was overtaking two vehicles when he crashed into the back of a Peugeot 807 people carrier, sending it crashing into a Welsh reservoir.

The vehicle plunged seven metres below the surface and only driver Denise Griffith, aged 56, and her dog, Milly survived the incident.

Mrs Griffith's husband Emyr, 66, mother Phyllis Hooper, 84, and two foster sons Peter Briscoe and Liam Govier, both 14, died.

A jury cleared 24-year-old Dyche of four counts of causing death by dangerous driving, but found him guilty of four counts of causing death by careless driving.

It was then revealed that Dyche, who lived in Hollands Road, Blakenall Heath until 2010, had finished a ban for driving while disqualified and without insurance three months before the crash in April 2011.

Sentencing him to four years jail at Caernarfon Crown Court, Judge Nicolas Parry said: "This behaviour and your previous convictions for motoring matters has confirmed you as a chancer behind the wheel."

Dyche, who had denied all the charges, had said he was satisfied that it was safe to overtake on the road near Llanidloes.

The family had been travelling back from a day out in Machynlleth to their holiday caravan near Llandrindod Wells when the incident happened at about 2.25pm.

The court was told mechanic Dyche had been

rushing because he was late for work and hit the car while overtaking, sending it crashing into the reservoir.

He attempted to overtake two cars on the B4518 at the Llyn Clywedog Reservoir, near Llanidloes.

Mr Simon Mills, prosecuting, said Mrs Griffith went to pull into a layby. As she did the silver Ford Mondeo driven by Dyche went to overtake a black Volkswagen and the Peugeot 806 being driven by her.

He struck her vehicle which as a result rolled down the embankment and into the water, plunging seven metres below the surface.

Dyche explained at the scene that he had been rushing because he was late



"Chancer behind the wheel" - Gordon Dyche



Liam Govier, 14, who drowned in Llyn Clywedog reservoir



Phyllis Hooper, 84, died



Liam Govier's mother Alison, 38

and signed a notebook belonging to a police officer saying it was his fault.

However, when he was formally interviewed, he tried to explain away the admissions as having resulted from panic and shock.

The trial was told that following the collision Dyche said it "felt like the end of the world. I felt helpless and useless as there was nothing I could do."

### Shunted

Giving evidence he said that he had been travelling behind the family's Peugeot 807 people carrier and a Volkswagen Passat when he decided it was safe to overtake.

"I looked and it was clear, I

checked my mirrors, again in front of me and indicated and started my manoeuvre," he said.

"I felt it was safe to do so and at this stage the Peugeot, which was in front of the Volkswagen, did not have its indicator on to turn right. All of a sudden the people carrier was in front of me and I pressed the brake as hard as I could, but shunted the vehicle."

When cross-examined by the prosecution that at the scene he was telling people that it was his fault because he was running late for work, then changed his views at the police station, he replied: "I am an honest man."

He was also given an extra six months for a previously suspended sentence for handling stolen goods. He will be banned from driving for four years upon his release from prison.

It was also revealed that when the incident happened, Dyche had just finished a ban for driving while disqualified and without insurance in January that year.

The court heard that he had also been disqualified for driving without insurance and for driving while disqualified in August 2010 and had a conviction for theft, also in 2010.

Alison Govier, 38, the natural mother of Liam, said: "This past year has been the worst of my life. It feels like my life has been on hold."

## Thief stole from home of his wife's grandmother

A WALSALL man stole £130 contained inside three money boxes, from the home of his wife's grandmother while she was out visiting her cancer stricken husband in hospital, a court heard.

Martin Jones gained access to Maureen Golding's home in the Black Country with a key which was kept in an outside safe.

Judge Michael Dudley told Jones at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week that his offence was "particularly mean".

### Curfew

The court heard Jones, aged 25, of Willow Grove, visited Mrs Golding on May 26 and knew she was heading out later.

A neighbour saw him entering Mrs Golding's house and called the police.

Jones was arrested the following day. He admitted a charge of burglary.

He was handed an eight-month prison sentence suspended for two years.

He must also comply with a three-month curfew, 12-months of supervision and complete 200-hours of unpaid work.

## NEWS in brief

### Have your say on council spending

RESIDENTS in Walsall have until September 23 to have their say on what the council's spending priorities should be.

Walsall Council chiefs are in the midst of the annual process of setting the budget for the year ahead. It is expected Government funding will be cut by at least £10 million.

Council bosses are asking people to fill in a survey at [www.walsall.gov.uk/bud](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/bud) get consultation to find out where they think money should be spent and saved. A draft budget will be unveiled later this year ahead of approval in 2013.

### Holiday brings in noise complaints

MORE than a dozen complaints about noisy parties were received across Walsall during the Bank Holiday weekend.

Officers were called to addresses 13 times and found residents complied with requests to be quiet.

Recent figures showed more than 3,000 noise complaints were made in a 12-month period. Environment boss Councillor Tom Ansell said the number of weekend complaints were varied and weather dependent.

### Dog sniffed out a garage burglar

A BROWNHILLS burglar who was tracked down by a police dog has been sentenced to 18 weeks in a young offenders institution.

Mitchell Fisher, aged 20, took items from an unlocked garage in Ogley Road, Brownhills, but was traced to his home in Millfield Road by his scent, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week. He admitted burglary.

### Revamp starts on the Barr Beacon

WORK on the £440,000 restoration of Walsall's landmark Barr Beacon started on Monday.

The long-awaited work will mean the weekday closure of the main entrance in Beacon Road, Aldridge. It is hoped the revamp, including work on the flagpole, tree plantation and war memorial, will be completed by spring 2013.

### A starlight stroll

SIGN up to a Starlight Ladies Walk for St Giles Walsall Hospice on September 22 in Aldridge. Call 01922 602528 for information.

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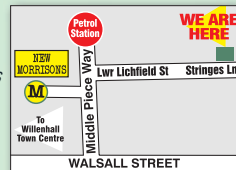
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## Self-service machines are library boost

SELF-SERVICE technology in Walsall libraries could ensure they do not need to close because of cost savings, council chiefs say.

The terminals have been introduced as part of a £230,000 programme. The system has already been implemented at Central Walsall, Aldridge, Brownhills and Bloxwich libraries.

Council chiefs said they have been widely well received and frees up staff

who are still available for anyone unsure of the system.

Leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said: "The new self-service machines are intended to take over the very routine tasks of issuing and discharging books thereby releasing staff to spend more time with customers rather than being stuck behind a desk dealing with this purely repetitive task. "One of the principal advantages

of the self service system is it is a tremendous cost saving and could end up preventing closures."

The council has already stated it needs to save £140,000 from its libraries service in the next three years under cost-cutting measures.

A review of book stocks and efficiencies from the new technology are among the measures. Staffing levels are poised to be cut across the service.

## Hours move helps tackle hospital food problems

**CHANGES to visiting hours at Walsall Manor Hospital have helped stamp out the problem of relatives eating food intended for patients, bosses have insisted.**

Relatives seen eating patients' food at the Moat Road hospital will be asked to stop, chiefs have pledged.

Visitor hours were changed after complaints visitors were eating food intended for patients and in some cases, were requesting extra food. Bosses said they have had no complaints since then.

Concerns about the problem were raised at the annual meeting of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust. Hospital chiefs vowed they had taken action then but further complaints were made about the problem continuing.

Kathryn Halford, associate director of nursing at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said there was a system of protected meal-times across the trust.

"This means patients don't receive treatment, unless it's an emergency, and all visitors are asked to leave the ward whilst patients eat their meals, unless they are helping with feeding their relative," she said. "We do not give relatives patient food and if anybody is found to be eating their relative's food they are asked to stop."

"This became a problem when we extended visiting times, which was done following the feedback we had received from our patients."

"Since visiting hours across most of the organisation have now been revised to 2pm to 7pm, we have had no further reports of relatives and visitors eating patients food."

A visitor claimed last month she had seen food being eaten by patients' relatives just weeks after the hospital said action had been taken.

## Diamond couple celebrate



**Diamond anniversary couple George and Winnie Beech and, right, on their wedding day outside St Peter's Church, Bloxwich**

THEY first met at primary school in Walsall and decades later, diamond couple George and Winnie Beech are celebrating 60 years of marriage.

Family and friends helped Mr and Mrs Beech, both 83, celebrate their milestone anniversary with a party. The pair met as pupils at St Peter's School, Bloxwich, before heading their separate ways aged 14.

Their paths crossed again some seven years later, shortly after Mr

Beech was demobbed from the Army, when they both attended the same Christmas party. The pair tied the knot on August 23, 1952 at St Peter's Church in Bloxwich High Street. They went on to have three children, Anne, Peter and Jayne, and now have grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Mrs Beech said: "I remember the wedding day, it was a beautiful sunny summer day. We've just always got on so well together."

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## NEWS

# Joinery firm is forced to close as buyer-plea fails

## Angela's true fantasy



First time author Angela Nock with her fantasy novel Blackthorn

AN AUTHOR is aiming to take popular dark fantasy genre by storm after publishing her debut novel.

Mother-of-two Angela Nock has embraced her love of writing to publish Blackthorn - A Tale Of Fire and Fury.

The 36-year-old from Bloxwich has written the book under her pen name of Nik Morgan and is set in 2035, in Devilsgate, a city founded upon the ruins of Birmingham fol-

lowing the Faerie Invasion of 2012. Angela left Birmingham University in 1998 with a first class degree in ancient and medieval history and previously had several jobs in administration.

Her work is available as an e-book on Amazon for £2.99. The writer is already working on a sequel.

More details about Angela and her debut novel are available at [www.nikmorgan.com](http://www.nikmorgan.com)

A WOODCRAFT and joinery firm in Walsall is closing with the loss of 16 jobs after an appeal for new buyers failed.

All the workers at Beacon Woodcraft have now been made redundant. It comes despite a last-ditch plea in June for a buyer to come forward to take it over.

Workers have spent the last few weeks completing existing orders that were on the company's books. Some were linked to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The Queen Street joinery firm is now expected to go into liquidation.

Beacon Woodcraft was set up in 1961 and had a workforce of 16, half of which had been made redundant by June. Some had been with the firm for more than 35 years.

Increased competition and tight margins have been blamed for the closure.

Andrew Turpin, spokesman for administrators Poppleton & Appleby, said: "With the support of customers and suppliers we have successfully completed the company's order book, which included jobs subject to time constraints for the Olympics."

"This created a far better result for the creditors of the company. All employees have been made redundant as existing contracts with the company were completed."

Mr Turpin said many of the workers have found new employment due to the highly-skilled nature of their trade.

"We expect the company to move to liquidation in due course in order that a dividend can be paid to creditors," he added.

The company was kept in working order while an appeal for a buyer was launched. But no suitable bids were made, sealing the fate of the company and its workers.

### Football helps hospice

A CHARITY football match raised £419 for St Giles Walsall Hospice. Sheffield United's coaches and supporters lined up on opposing sides to help the Goscoe Lane hospice.

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## LETTERS

### Neglected area needs attention

THE major aim of The Friends Around The Lea group was to protect "The Lea" green belt site and see it restored to its former use as recreational public land.

To this end we have received certain promises from Walsall Council which at this time are in progress and we applaud this, although in the opinion of some, the progress is slow considering the neglect of this land, by its owner Walsall MBC, over the past years.

Another major purpose is to considerably better our area. It has suffered considerable neglect with derelict sites being left as intolerable eyesores to the

residents who have to live in the mess and depravity caused by the owners of these sites. Such a situation would not be allowed to happen in the "better" areas of Walsall.

I read that hotspots for fly-tipping include Goscote Lodge Crescent, Shakespeare Crescent and Chaucer Road all of which are in our area.

This highlights the fact that, as we believe, as the landowners leave these sites looking like "a tip", then the fly-tippers will use them as such.

I have on several occasions requested CCTV cameras for the fly-tipping which I have reported to Street Pride

on numerous occasions. No camera but still the fly-tipping goes on.

We read that £250,000 had been spent on clearing the rubbish left by fly-tipping in just 12 months, yet we are being told that there is no money for cameras. Our opinion is that having cameras in place will alleviate more than the cost of any cameras installed.

We also have problems with the derelict lands at the former Dolphin pub site and the Elkington site, both on Goscote Lane.

**KEN WALL, The Friends Around The Lea Committee  
 Hardy Road, Walsall**

### This loss of leisure is no pleasure

SO two new leisure centres are to be created at Bloxwich and at Oak Park and Darlaston swimming baths are to be revamped.

I welcome this news.

It's lucky that you who live there are not residents of Willenhall, we have lost ours.

Decisions of this kind should not be reached on the basis of over simplified statistics, as ours were, but on the basis of need, and equal provision of similar facilities for all council tax payers.

#### Justify

It would be interesting to be told what statistical basis was used to justify the huge expenditure on the Arboretum area, and the cost per user.

This was the alleged reason why we have lost our baths and leisure centre.

**STAN TAYLOR  
 Gomer Street  
 West Willenhall**

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle  
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

walsallchronicle@  
 expressandstar.co.uk

### Join our group and help celebrate town

I WOULD like to invite readers to join our fast-growing Facebook group, Willenhall ay we? All 800 members have Willenhall's interest at heart and we're all very proud of our town. We organise meetings, have walks around the town, cycle rides and we also know how to party.

It's very sad to see how Willenhall has been neglected over the years. However, I was talking to a lady at the old Bell Pub recently who was trying to get funding for it and she was very optimistic it would re-open. The old leisure centre is being refurbished and there's a lot of building going on.

A couple of pubs have recently re-opened, bucking the trend and I hope this is a turning point in the town's future. We just want to try to restore the old great Willenhall community spirit which was clearly evident when the Olympic Torch came to town. Every one who lives in Willenhall can all do their bit and with a bit of luck we can make this once proud town great again.

Recent events like carnival day, Willenhall Heritage day have been a great success so it can be done.  
**WILL MORGAN, Willenhall**

### Cruel to prey on elderly

THE crime, preying on older people, seems to be a regular activity for the parasites who have no idea of the misery they cause.

My father was a victim, a man claiming to be from the water board kept my father talking while an accomplice stole a small amount of money.

Dad never felt safe again, he stopped opening his door and never answered the phone, a few weeks later he was admitted to hospital and then to a residential home, where his life ended, he was; literally scared to death.

Our family lost a wonderful father, grandfather and great-grandfather just a few weeks before his 90th birthday.

I can never forgive those responsible, their actions that day had a devastating effect on our family.

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## NEWS

# Work on contaminated playing fields to begin

## Soul song is family affair



**A SIX-WEEK** scheme to help reopen the contaminated Broadway West playing fields, Walsall, will start next week.

Ball games have been banned there for almost a decade after dangerous metals were found in soil samples.

The £400,000 project, which includes installing of an engineering cap and new top soil, was agreed by Walsall Council and is now due to begin on September 10. The site will be fenced off for a few months.

Residents and motorists have been warned more than 20 lorries a day are due to arrive at the site. Sports will still not be able to take place until later next year as the land needs time to establish.

Leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said the fencing would remain in place after the works had been completed to protect the grass seeding until it has established.

"It is anticipated that the fields will be ready for organised football by the 2013/14 season and for cricket by 2014," he said.

"The main construction works are scheduled to start in the week commencing September 10 and should last for around five to six weeks.

"During this time there will be an increased number of lorries entering and leaving the site and there will be construction activity on the site itself. We will be taking all reasonable precautions to minimise any disturbance to the local community."

Steps include vehicles only being allowed to enter and leave the site by a left turn so that they do not have to cross the traffic.

### Couple to open garden

AN award-winning Walsall garden will open to the public on September 23. Tony and Marie Newton's Four Seasons Garden in Buchanan Road can be viewed from 10am to 5pm. Admission is £3 for adults. Proceeds go to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

**In tune - D'Votion's new single is raising money for good causes**

A FAMILY soul group has released a new single which is raising money for good causes.

The pop song Everybody Needs A Dream is sung by D'Votion, featuring Cheslyn Hay brothers Paul, aged 33, John, 31, and 27-year-old Charles Smith. The vocals of their sisters Julia Warsop, 30, of Bloxwich, and Louise Smith, 23, of Willenhall, also feature in the song which is being sold at the group's gigs and is available via iTunes.

The song was written by Barry Pritchard, of The Fortunes fame,

and his Wolverhampton-based son Nick years ago and has been adapted for the group. A cut of the proceeds from sales is being split between Acorns Children's Hospice, Women's Aid and PA4 Inspiration - a social enterprise in Wolverhampton which helps youngsters with career development in creative arts.

Paul said: "It is an uplifting song. We wanted to get the message across that everything is achievable."

The group will perform the song at ArtsFest in Birmingham's Centenary Square on Sunday.

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## NEWS

### Workers honoured for commitment to store

WORKERS at Asda in Bloxwich have been honoured at a dinner for their service to the firm. Twelve of them joined more than 1,000 colleagues at Doncaster Racecourse for the annual event that recognises workers who have clocked up 25, 30, 35 and 40 years' service. Each received a certificate as well as an extra week's paid holiday and a £300 bonus. Judith Edgar, customer services adviser and one of two employees to reach 35 years with Asda, said: "I should have retired two years ago but I enjoy working for Asda a great deal - we're like one big family, and it's always pleasing when you're recognised for your commitment to the job. I can remember when the site of Asda Bloxwich was the old fairground and I used to visit as a youngster, so this patch of land has been part of my life for many years."

### College has bill of £90k to recruit more staff

ALMOST £90,000 was spent on recruiting extra staff at Walsall College due to the demand for courses during the last year, it has emerged.

Extra workers were recruited as scores of students signed up for classes in areas such as sports, business and construction in the 2011/12 academic year.

Bosses at the booming £64 million college, which opened in Littleton Street almost three years ago, said bringing in the extra staff was "essential" to meet the growing demand for course places.

Stephanie Thompson, head of human resources at the college, said: "In the 2011/12 academic year, Walsall College experienced significant growth in its construction, public services, sports, business and professional curriculum areas as an increased number of students enrolled on these courses."

"Recruiting additional lecturing staff in these areas last year was essential."

#### Named

She added: "The college enlisted the help of specialist education recruitment agencies to ensure that the required lecturing roles were appropriately filled."

The Wisemore campus opened its doors in September 2009 after more than 18 months of construction.

It includes fully-fitted workshops for business, creative arts, health, public services, technology and digital learning along with a restaurant named after one of the town's most famous sons, Jerome K Jerome.

Ms Thompson added: "Walsall College is dedicated to providing local young people, adults and businesses with the skills they need for success."

"Rated 'good' by Ofsted, our success rates for level 3, A level equivalent, learners are in the top 10 per cent across the country."

A new business and sports complex worth up to £5 million is being planned in the coming years.

### Car wash business given the go-ahead

PLANS for a car wash on the site of a former petrol filling station in Bloxwich have been given the go-ahead.

Concerns had been raised about possible flooding from the regular use of two jet sprays.

Temporary three-year permission was granted by Walsall Council planners last week for a hand wash and valeting service at the Field Service Station, Lichfield Road.

A proposal for a convenience store was rejected last year because of site layout and parking concerns.

Councillor Fred Westley, who represents Bloxwich West, predicted the business would cause severe congestion at peak times.

He warned the meeting: "It's going to be bedlam round there."

#### Place

Councillor Angela Underhill raised fears over drainage as the area was prone to water blockages.

"There is so much flooding round there that I have serious concerns that a car wash will only exacerbate the problem," she said.

She called on the planning committee to place a restriction on the amount of water the business can use.

"If not, we are stacking up problems for the future," she said.

The car wash service will be open seven days a week, between 9am-7pm on weekdays and 10am-4pm at weekends.

### 200 improvements for the busiest roads

ALMOST 200 improvement schemes will be carried out on some of the busiest roads in the West Midlands over the next 12 months. A £116 million budget has been set aside for improvements on motorways and main A roads around the region. Among the projects is cable renewal along the M6 from junction 10 for Walsall to 10A for Essington. Work to open up the next section of the hard shoulder to traffic between Great Barr and Birmingham should be finished in autumn 2013. Work to create a fourth lane from junction 10a for the M54 to 13 at Stafford will start in 2014.



## NEWS

# Council digs deep to find cash for allotment work

## Pedal power pulls in pounds

MUD-SPLATTERED cyclists, including Brian Taylor, from Walsall, sprung into gear to complete the Acorns Severn Valley Cycle challenge raising more than £15,000 for children with life limiting conditions.

Participants chose either a 10 or 20 mile route that finished in Bewdley last month.

Some stopped off for a picnic while others charged on ahead, completing the challenge in record personal times.

Brian celebrated with a wheeler across the finishing line. He was joined on the ride by his father-in-law, John Welham, aged 63.

He said: "I hadn't cycled for 20 years, but I got roped in last year, and decided to enter again, and train this time."

"I've lost two stones and my Type II diabetes symptoms have disappeared."

"It was great to help Acorns' children: Everything is better - I feel fit."

Lucy Shepherd, international treks and challenges officer at Acorns said: "It was a brilliant day and we were thrilled to see such a great turn out of people supporting Acorns."

Acorns provides its services to families free of charge but it does cost £750 per child per day.



Celebrating completing their ride are Walsall cyclists Brian Taylor, left, Narinder Jagdev and John Welham

ALMOST £100,000 will be ploughed into improving allotments in Walsall over the next 12 months with new plots, better security and community gardens.

Cash is being earmarked to clear up sites and add new features following a boom in the number of people keen to grown their own crops. It comes as work is being done to reduce waiting lists for allotments in Walsall, after new sought-after plots recently became available.

A firm action plan of where the money is being allocated is being drawn up. However, a total of £92,000 has been set aside by Walsall Council in this financial year.

Leisure chief councillor Anthony Harris said: "There is a budget set aside for working with community groups in the creation and development of community gardens. This can include land clearance, providing infrastructure, garden features, training and supporting volunteers."

"Improvements to allotment sites may include infrastructure improvements such as pathways, the setting out of plots, security enhancements and identifying opportunities to create new plots. It is also part of our allotment strategy to provide toilets at the council-managed sites."

Small plots were recently put on offer at the Victoria Road site, Darlaston, with others at Ince Road and Addenbrooke Street. It emerged in June that 152 people were still queuing up for a plot on one of the 10 council-managed sites. However, 44 plots have been created in the past year.

A community allotment is also being lined up for land at the Mirus Academy, Bloxwich, and follows an orchard being planted in the area in spring.

### Trapped horse rescued

A HORSE got stuck in mud when it slid into a ditch in Pelsall Lane, Walsall. Fire crews used straps to free the horse last week.

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# NEWS

## Meeting is needed on hall's fate - campaigner

AN ACTION group that aims to preserve a historic hall on the Walsall-Sandwell border has criticised the new owners for issuing a questionnaire to thousands of homes instead of hosting a public meeting about its future.

by Harry Gottshalk

The Great Barr Hall Action Committee, supported by Beacon Action Group, had asked a consortium of 10 local businessmen and professionals which acquired the hall this year to hold a meeting to inform the public about its plans for the derelict building.

Peter Allen, the chairman of the committee, said a meeting was essential before a questionnaire about the hall's future was sent out.

But a spokesman for the consortium said a public meeting would be held later. The questionnaire has already been sent to 2,000 homes and Walsall Council is looking to send it to a further 2,500.

Mr Allen said the distribution of a questionnaire to local caused great concern.

"Their underlying intention was laudable, the gathering of public opinion can be immensely valuable, but the way they have gone about it is, in our opinion,

inappropriate and deeply flawed," he said.

"Our immediate response on being shown a first draft of the questionnaire was to advise against its release - for good and sound reasons.

"The document on its own could not yield meaningful results, as few local residents had more than a passing acquaintance with Great Barr Hall and its historic grounds, and none would be fully aware of the complex issues concerned with planning, historicity, administration and the environment."

Mike Lapworth, of Lapworth Architects, said the questionnaire, which was encouraged by Walsall Council, would not be the only opportunity for the public to have their say.

"It was always our intention to hold public meetings in due course," he said.

## Making music in park



Chuck Macalfe will be taking part on Sunday

MUSIC and sport will be coming to Walsall Arboretum for the national Bandstand Marathon that aims to bring live music performance to bandstands and outdoor performance spaces across the UK on Sunday.

People will be able to enjoy music from traditional to experimental, a guided tour of the restoration work that has been completed so far, the new Gallery Garden and a Walsall 2012 Sportfest in the park's extension.

Stallholders offering arts and crafts, holistic therapies and handmade items are being invited to set up on the Centre Green. To continue the feelgood factor of the Olympics, a Walsall 2012 Sportfest offering a range of activities will be staged in the Arboretum Extension, to coincide with the Paralympics closing ceremony. Anyone interested in booking a stall should call Craig Vincent in Walsall Council's creative development team on 01922 653114.

## Preparing for Poppy run

PREPARATIONS are being put in place for the inaugural Aldridge Poppy Run and Walk on November 3 at Aldridge Airport, off Bosty Lane. There will be a five-mile course for runners and a four-mile route for walkers. The entry fee is £10 for runners and £5 for walkers with all money raised going to the Aldridge Poppy Appeal. Finishers will receive a commemorative poppy medal.

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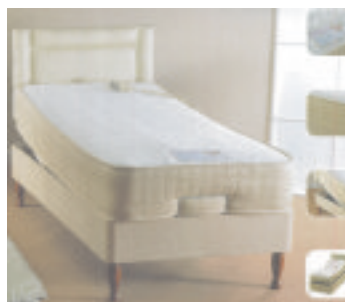


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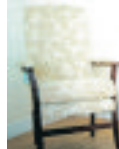


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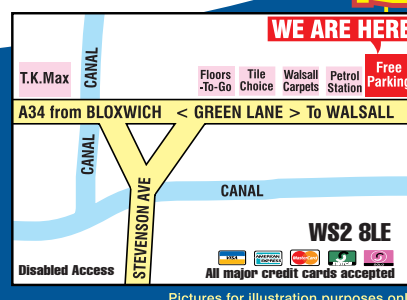
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## NEWS

# Review into catering as academies figure rises

A REVIEW of the £1.2 million school catering service in Walsall is being carried out as more schools opt to become academies.

The future of more than 250 catering jobs was secured earlier this year after the cash-strapped authority axed plans to stop its subsidy for meals.

Council bosses said they were keen to ensure pupils receive a hot meal and a new designated working group of councillors has been set up to review the long-term future of the service.

Options expected to be considered are setting up a social enterprise and if schools would prefer running it themselves.

A final report of the findings is due to be prepared for November and will go before the decision-making cabinet before the end of the year.

A report to the council's community services and environment scrutiny panel states: "The council runs a school catering service for 66 schools. This costs the council £1.2m a year from a total budget of £3.5m. The service is required to make efficiencies."

"The school landscape is changing with increasing numbers of schools becoming academies and no longer being local authority con-

More than 25 primary and secondary schools across Walsall are expected to have become academies by the end of the financial year.

This year the cost of school was put up from £1.85 to £1.90.

Smaller meals are being served to tackle the borough's childhood obesity problem after it emerged reception class pupils aged four to five were being served the same size portions as 11-year-olds.

# Village's centre in need of greeters

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to meet and greet customers at the new £4.5 million Pelsall Village Centre.

It is set to open in phases starting this month.

The library service wants to recruit people from the village to give three hours a week to help out there.

It comes after an appeal for volunteers was launched for New Invention Library, Willenhall, in a bid to increase opening hours there. Residents aged 16 and over can pick up an application form.

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said: "This is a great opportunity for local people who want to help out in their local communities to get involved with a service that is open to everyone."

"They will be providing support to library staff at this exciting new venue."

As well as meet and greet duties, volunteers will help with inquiries from users and assist people in using the self-service library facilities. The library will be open five days a week.

For information on becoming a volunteer, email [infoexpress@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:infoexpress@walsall.gov.uk) or call Pelsall Library on 01922 650455.

# Keeping watch

THE north Aldridge neighbourhood watch group is meeting tonight (Thurs) at the Community Rooms, Lancaster Avenue from 7.30-9pm.

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## NEWS

# Cut in prices boosts use of town centre car park

## Jordan happy to join up



Major Jimmy Lamb with new recruits Jordan Antill, Kasey Twitthen, Mikey Cox, Thomas Marriot, Samuel Small, Daniel Tranter, Benjamin Sidaway and Jay Mellor

ONE of the latest recruits to join the Army from the West Midlands has told of his delight at making it into his "dream career".

Jordan Antill, aged 17, of Walsall, was among eight teenagers swearing an oath of allegiance last month before starting their military training at Harrogate Army Foundation College.

The 52 weeks of training will see

him able to take GCSEs and NVQs while also learning the skills needed for his new career.

He said: "I'm really proud to have got this far and my family are delighted for me even though they're not looking forward to me going away."

"I've been interested in being in the Army since I was nine so this is my dream."

**REDUCED** charges at a multi-storey car park in Walsall has seen take-up of some spaces rocket by almost 50 per cent.

Private car park operator NCP slashed fees at its Freer Street in June. A similar move was made at its Wulfrun car park in Wolverhampton.

Bosses said the move was boosting local businesses as drivers were spending more time in both areas.

A £3 all-day charge was brought in at Walsall to replace the original £7.50 fee, along with free parking on Sundays.

Figures have shown an increase of 43 per cent at the Freer Street site compared to the same period last year when the normal tariff was in place. At Wulfrun, there has been a 14 per cent rise in numbers of motorists.

Derek Kirkwood, cluster manager for the parking operator, said: "NCP has been delighted with the public's response to our price changes in Freer Street and the Wulfrun Centre."

"Changing the price to £3 at Freer Street has meant that the daily usage has increased significantly because people know that they can park all day for a fixed price - spending the extra time in the town which is aiding the local businesses."

"Customers are telling us that this is what they have been looking for as they are always conscious of the parking charges in the competitor sites."

Sunday parking charges were controversially introduced on council-run car parks in Walsall almost three years ago. It recently emerged fewer than half the parking spaces at the authority's sites are being filled.

## Fiery fundraising fun

A FUNDRAISING weekend at a Walsall pub raised more than £3,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Fire walking was among the events at the Longhorn, Sutton Road. A total of £3,108 was collected, which has covered the cost of a heart monitor.

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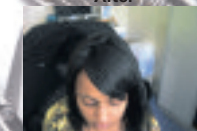


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**RULES:** Entrants must be aged 18 or over. Closing date for entries is Friday 28th September, 2012. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form, made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued, the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within 2 months of receipt. Employees (or their immediate relatives) of the Express and Star may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity.



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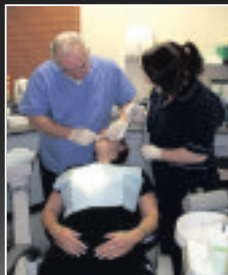
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## Aldi stores creating 40 new jobs

MORE than 40 jobs are being created by a discount supermarket chain at its stores across Staffordshire.

Store assistants are being recruited by Aldi at its outlets across Brownhills, Burntwood, Cannock, Rugeley, Lichfield and Tamworth.

The recruitment drive included an open day at the Holiday Inn Express, in Lichfield, last weekend.

It comes as the new store in Burntwood is due to be completed by November.

Bosses are looking to bring in at least 45

new staff across its outlets in the area. Aldi spokesman Nick Bevan said: "The positions will be open for a number of stores including Aldi's new store in Burntwood."

### Training

"Key responsibilities for successful candidates include accurate and efficient till operation, and stock management and merchandising."

"Full training will be provided over a 12 week period, and roles are available from 15 hours a week."

## CCTV clue in hunt for nursing home thieves

THIS is a woman detectives want to speak to in connection with a series of thefts at nursing homes in the Black Country.

Four homes in Walsall and Sandwell were hit earlier this month by a common claiming to be carrying out official work. This new image of a woman who officers want to speak to has been released as police revealed a further three thefts have taken place in the Dudley area - bringing the total number to seven, all believed to be linked.

Earlier this month four homes were targeted by a male bogus caller in one day, who had claimed to be doing official work, and once inside he stole bank cards and cash from staff. Now CCTV has uncovered a second female suspect who officers are asking for the public's help to trace.



The CCTV image of a woman who police want to talk to in connection with thefts

The woman was caught on camera using a card which was stolen from one of the homes to withdraw a large amount of cash. Anyone who recognises

the woman is asked to contact police.

The homes targeted included Woodgreen Nursing Home and Dovedale Court in Wednesbury.

The crime spree started in Pleck when the common gained access by claiming to be doing official jobs. He rifled through staff belongings, stealing bank cards and cash.

He targeted the home in Walsall on August 7 posing as a workman and stole cheques from staff worth around £700. He then headed to a home in Wednesbury where he took a handbag, which included bank cards. He managed to withdraw £1,400. He headed to another home in Wednesbury where he stole a handbag containing cash.

At the fourth home staff were suspicious and when challenged fled.

De Lindsay Marsh, of Sandwell CID, appeal for help to catch the culprits.

## NEWS

### NEWS in brief

#### Blaze damages shop outbuilding

TWENTY firefighters were called to tackle a blaze at an outbuilding attached to a Co-op store in Walsall on Friday night.

A resident raised the alarm when smoke was seen coming from the back of the building in Sutton Road.

Firefighters said they found a pile of rubbish on fire, which had spread to an outbuilding. There was concern someone might be living in a flat above but it was vacant.

The fire damaged the roof of the outbuilding.

#### Ramblers go on a walk by reservoir

WALSALL Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Thornton Reservoir, Leicestershire for a 7.5 mile circular walk on Sunday.

It is described as a moderate walk around the reservoir, through forest and countryside.

All are welcome and contact the walk leader for further information on 07790 167 251

#### Book sale aims to boost club funds

WILLENHALL Trinity Bowls Club is holding a book sale to raise funds for repairs to its clubhouse.

Second hand books will be up for sale at the club in Charles Street, Willenhall, on Saturday from 10am to 1pm. Jigsaws, CDs and DVDs will also be available.

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| A Magical Day at Disneyland Paris                 | from £79.95  | Eastbourne - Congress Hotel                       | from £139.95 |
| 14 September                                      |              | 26 September - 4 Days • 3 Nights                  |              |
| North Devon Delights - Royal Hotel                | from £99.95  | Weekend on the English Riviera - Sefton Hotel     | from £99.95  |
| 14 September - 3 Days • 2 Nights                  |              | 28 September - 4 Days • 3 Nights                  |              |
| Buckingham Palace, Thames Cruise & Clarence House | from £149.95 | North Wales Weekend - Ambassador Hotel            | from £99.95  |
| 15 September - 2 Days • 1 Night                   |              | 28 September - 3 Days • 2 Nights                  |              |
| Rimini - 15 Sept - 9 Days • 8 Nights              | from £399.95 | Salou Special - 3* Budget Breaker Hotel           | from £269.95 |
| London & Theatre Weekend                          | from £119.95 | 28 September - 10 Days • 7 Nights                 |              |
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| York, Whitby & Scarborough                        | from £49.95  | 28 September - 10 Days • 7 Nights                 |              |
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| Newquay, St Ives, Lands End & Falmouth            | from £189.95 | 28 September - 10 Days • 7 Nights                 |              |
| 17 September - 5 Days • 4 Nights                  |              | Salou Special - 4* Hotel Golden Port Salou & Spa  | from £315.95 |
| Scarborough & York - The Granville Lodge Hotel    | from £169.95 | 28 September - 10 Days • 7 Nights                 |              |
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| Loch Lomond & The Trossachs - Rob Roy Hotel       | from £239.95 | 29 September - 2 Days • 1 Night                   |              |
| 17 September - 5 Days • 4 Nights                  |              | Blackpool Illuminations Break                     | from £199.95 |
| Autumn Gold in the English Lakes                  | from £139.95 | 01 October - 5 Days • 4 Nights                    |              |
| 21 September - 3 Days • 2 Nights                  |              | Bournemouth, Swanage, Weymouth                    | from £179.95 |
| Ostend & Bruges Weekend - New Astoria Hotel       | from £149.95 | & Lulworth Cove - Manchester Hotel                | from £179.95 |
| 21 September - 3 Days • 2 Nights                  |              | 01 October - 5 Days • 4 Nights                    |              |
| Cotswolds & Bath Weekend                          | from £49.95  | Bournemouth Super Deal                            | from £169.95 |
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| Friday               | 07 September | 09.00 - 13.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   |                    |                         |
| Saturday             | 08 September | 09.00 - 13.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 09.30 - 13.00   |                    | 09.30 - 13.00           |
| Monday               | 10 September | 12.00 - 20.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   |                    |                         |
| Tuesday              | 11 September | 12.00 - 20.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   |                    | 10.00 - 18.00           |
| Wednesday            | 12 September | 12.00 - 20.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   |                    |                         |
| Thursday             | 13 September | 12.00 - 20.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   | 10.00 - 18.00      | 10.00 - 18.00           |
| Friday               | 14 September | 09.00 - 13.00 | •                       | •                      | •                 | 10.00 - 16.00   |                    |                         |
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## NEWS

# Woman's joy as missing mother found by charity



Back from the dead – Amina, Amuun and Zakary Mohamoud with picture of Amuun's mother Zara who she feared had died after they had lost contact in a refugee camp in Africa eight years ago. Now she has been found

**A MOTHER-of-two in Walsall has thanked the British Red Cross after the charity traced her missing mother and put the pair back in touch.**

Amuun Mohamoud, 41, asked the charity for help finding her mother Zara who she last saw in a refugee camp near Mombassa, Kenya, eight years ago.

She said: "After I lost touch with her I truly thought she was dead. The Red Cross did the most amazing thing and found her."

"Words cannot describe how it felt to know she was still alive."

Mrs Mohamoud and her family fled civil war in Somalia and lived in a refugee camp for nine years before making enough money from the sale of family heirlooms to buy two tickets to Britain. Together with her father, she left the country leaving behind her three-year-old son Zakary, her mother and brother.

Although Zakary, now 14, joined her years later, her mother Zara returned to Somalia. Believing her mother was dead, Mrs Mohamoud made a life for herself in the UK, learning English,

moving to Walsall and having another child Amina, now three.

In 2011, on the advice of a friend, she contacted the Red Cross who eight months later found her mother alive and well.

### Phone

She said: "I rushed straight home and bought a phone card so I could call my mum. She couldn't believe it was me on the phone. She had thought I was dead and I thought she was dead, we were both crying so much. She didn't even know she had another grandchild."

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## NEWS

# Cigarette thieves threatened shop staff with an axe

**FOUR** axe-wielding robbers threatened staff at a Tesco Express in Aldridge and stole cigarettes.

Police have appealed for witnesses and are looking at CCTV following the terrifying raid last week.

Officers were called to the shop in Paddock Lane at 10.40pm on Wednesday, August 29, 20 minutes before the shop was due to close at 11pm.

Lee Page, spokesman for West Midlands

Police, said: "Four offenders with an axe threatened staff and then jumped over the counter and stole a quantity of cigarettes. They got away in a white Ford Focus RS."

## Raids

The attack comes following a string of raids at Co-op stores across the region. Five Co-op stores have been targeted in the past month in Tividale, Wombourne, Brewwood and Tipton all hit.

Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101.

# Singing postman is ready to deliver on talent night



Return To Sender or Love Letters In The Sand? Singing postman Nathan Farrell gets ready for the regional final

BY day Nathan Farrell pulls on his uniform to deliver letters around the streets of the Black Country as a postman. But by night the 26-year-old is a singing star in the making.

Now he is preparing to make a name in the music world after making it through to the regional finals of a national live music competition.

Mr Farrell, of Church Street, Bloxwich was one of around 300 singers who auditioned at Birmingham's NEC to try and get a place at the Open Mic UK event.

## Auditions

The father of two, who has been a postman for more than eight years, was one of 20 acts picked to sing in the regional final at Birmingham's NEC on October 6.

Mr Farrell rushed to the auditions last Saturday after his postal round in Bloxwich and was the last act to be seen by the judges.

Mr Farrell said: "They were closing up but luckily they agreed to see me. I sang one of my own songs."

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Scholarships are given to children who demonstrate an exceptional aptitude for science and mathematics

## Scholarships available for shining stars

ALDRIDGE School has been a science specialist college for almost 10 years, where a huge emphasis is placed on accelerating students' learning.

Staff and students are proud of their academic scholarship programmes, which support the existing Gifted and Talented programme, embedded across all aspects of the curriculum.

### Platform

These scholarships give children who demonstrate exceptional aptitude for science and mathematics a generous platform to enrich their learning with extra stimulus.

# A school to challenge and inspire students

**ALDRIDGE School, a science college, leaves no child behind – nor do they hold anyone back.**

Staff believe in challenging and inspiring their students to set them on the path to success.

Aldridge School supports a strong academic curriculum with an outstanding extra-curricular programme, giving everyone the chance to shine, regardless of learning ability.

No two children have the same educational needs, and these requirements can change and evolve over time.

That is why Aldridge School has customised its curriculum to meet the needs of children and groups as they develop and grow, making sure they are fully equipped for age 14-19 progression.

### Celebrating

This year, staff, students and parents were celebrating an 89 per cent A\* to C pass rate – up from 82 per cent last year.

The school also saw a jump in its A\* to C pass rate in English and maths from 66 per cent last year to 73 per cent this year.

Among top performers celebrating their results were 16-year-olds Olivier Sanga and Alissa Westley who each got 12 GCSEs at A and A\*.

Sofia Somani and Harriet Green



Recent GCSE results at A\* to C grade rose from 82 per cent in 2011 to 89 per cent

each got 11 GCSEs at A and A\* and for 16-year-old Rohit Sohan his nine GCSEs at grade C and above exceeded all expectation.

David Mountney, Aldridge School headteacher, said: "These are excellent results for the school which I am delighted to say is now performing in the top 25 per cent of schools in the country."

"As with our record A-level results, the GCSE results once again demonstrate the school's commitment to achieving excellence together."

Of the 252 students who sat GCSEs at the school in a full range of subjects, the school expects 140 to stay on to study A-levels at its Sixth Form, with others opting for college courses, apprenticeships and work.



No two children have the same educational needs, and these requirements can change and evolve over time

# Open Evenings

Wednesday 19th September and Thursday 20th September 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm



**Aldridge School**  
**A Science College**

Achieving excellence together



### Aldridge School - A Science College

Aldridge School's extensive curriculum and highly-praised teaching staff combine traditional education values with creativity and innovation. We have created a richly diverse and adaptable environment to give your child a rock-solid foundation to grow as an individual, achieve the best possible standards in their exam results, and enter the world equipped with all the skills for a successful adult life.

If you want to find out more, please contact us directly, or better still, join us at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 19th September or Thursday 20th September 2012 to discuss your child's future at Aldridge School with our specialist staff.

### Music Scholarships

Does your child have an aptitude for music? If so they could qualify for one of our Music Scholarships.

Each year twenty five places are awarded to the most gifted and aspiring students. We support our music students with exemplary teaching staff, who are supplemented by a group of passionate, high level instrument tutors, who teach at no extra cost. This is an opportunity unmatched in state education. There will be a special meeting on Wednesday 19th September at 6:15pm in Whitman Hall for parents and students interested in applying for a Music Scholarship.

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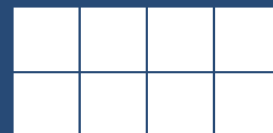
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### 2012 GCSE Exam Success

**73%** of students achieved 5 or more A\* - C grades (including English and Maths)

**89%** of students achieved 5 or more A\* - C grades  
**GCSE results for 2012 were in the top 25% nationally**

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## MEMORY LANE



The fire-damaged 1930s Leamore Park Pavilion, February 1994 Picture: courtesy of Jack Haddock



Butlers Arms and Bloxwich Road, Leamore, pictured 1920s. It was the second pub to occupy this site



The Art Deco Rosum Cinema, Leamore, pictured in about 1936. It is now Farm Foods



Leamore Shopping Precinct in the early 1960s

# Rich history of area that retains strong identity

LEAMORE, near Bloxwich, is first mentioned in 1420 and was probably uninhabited heathland for centuries.

By about 1775 a settlement grew around what is now Leamore Lane, Bloxwich Road and Green Lane.

During the 1800s Leamore expanded, with coal mining and iron working the main industries.

Off Leamore Lane, St. John's mission church was built 1883, rebuilt 1931 and demolished 1967. A Wesleyan chapel was established in Broadstone (Bloxwich Road) in 1862-1864.

It was demolished in 1963 when the Leamore flats were built, preceded by Leamore Shopping Precinct.

Council housing arrived in the late 1920s, and in the 1950s slums were replaced by a modern council estate, first known as Gypsy Lane and later Beechdale Estate.

Leamore Primary School, Bloxwich Road, built 1872, opened in 1873 as a mixed board (council)

by Stuart Williams

school. Extended in the late 1900s, it still thrives today. Christ Church C.E. Primary School, Harden Road, was built 1971 but replaced 2011-12 by a new circular building. W.R.

Wheway Secondary Modern School opened in Hawbush Road in 1954. In 1973 it was reorganised as Forest Comprehensive, later closing to become the Forest Arts Centre.

An Art Deco cinema, The Rosum, was opened on Bloxwich Road in 1935. It later became a bingo hall and is now Farm Foods.

Now-lost Leamore pubs once included the Georgian Spread Eagle (rebuilt by 1932) and Red Lion (c1838, rebuilt early 1900s).

The Tudor Old Black Horse (demolished c1880, replaced 1907 by The Black Horse) and Georgian New Black Horse (replaced by the Butlers Arms in early 1900s), were on opposite corners of Harden Road and Bloxwich Road. Georgian coaching inn The Four Crosses, Green Lane, was rebuilt 1924.

The only surviving historic

Leamore pub is The Crown (early 1900s) now closed, in Leamore Lane. The popular 1960s Railway Inn on the corner of Broadstone Avenue replaced a Victorian predecessor.

Stubbs & James Iron Furnaces were built about 1802-6 with an associated colliery (1813) to the west of Leamore (now Beechdale Estate) in the early 1800s, as part of the Industrial Revolution.

Forest Colliery was mined extensively during the 1800s, but by 1902 was disused.

This tiny urbanised hamlet has had a rich past. Today, while it needs regeneration, Leamore is still a good place to live with a strong identity.

● Prints of pictures in this feature and thousands more are available to purchase by special order from Walsall Local History Centre. For local and family history, drop into the centre in Essex Street, which is part of Walsall Council, telephone 01922 721305. For more information online see [www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre)



The Old (or Little) Black Horse pub, Harden Lane (now Road), Leamore, before 1911



A former Ipswich Walsall Corporation trolleybus passing Leamore Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Bloxwich Road, 1959 Picture: courtesy of Jack Haddock

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**COMPETITION**

# By George! Chance to bag classy offer

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MUMS can be rest assured their kids will be going back to school in style this September, with a fantastic competition from Asda Wolverhampton, which is celebrating its new-look store and George department.

The store has teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer three lucky readers the chance to each win £100 to spend on the George Back to School range.

This year George has enlisted the help of more than 100 mums to test schoolwear items and their feedback has been taken on board to produce outfits that are hard-wearing, easy to care for and fantastic value.

**Guarantee**

George has also extended the size of its range and now caters for children from the age of three up to 12 years old, using quality features such as 100 per cent cotton, permanent pleats, adjustable waists and scuff resistant shoes.

And if mums aren't completely happy, they have the added comfort of knowing George offers a 100-day satisfaction guarantee on all school clothing (except footwear) and will provide a full refund in exchange for a valid receipt.

Asda Wolverhampton, based on Jack Haywood Way, also stocks a vast range of stationery ideal for school, including a nine-piece maths set, calculators and 24 pack of HB pencils, each priced at £1.



Equipped for new term – school styles to suit all ages and sizes

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**How many days does the George satisfaction guarantee last?**

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to ASDA Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, September 13, 2012. No cash alternative. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Entrants must be 18 or over.

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# Express & Star

## NEWS

# Dance dreams come true for four young ballerinas



Talented Walsall ballerinas hard at practice in preparation to dance with the English Youth Ballet



A scene from the English Youth Ballet production of Swan Lake, being performed at the Grand Theatre

**A GROUP of the region's best ballet young ballerinas – including four girls from Walsall – have been chosen to dance in English Youth Ballet's version of Swan Lake at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre later this month.**

The girls from Walsall were chosen from more than 300 hopeful dancers from across the region at an audition held at the Grand in April. Following their acceptance Rachael

Carrier, 16, Georgia Curtis, 15, Megan Harris, 15 and Sophie Poppitt, 12, have had to undergo an intensive rehearsal schedule in order to be ready to perform at the theatre on Friday and Saturday, September 21 and 22.

### Perform

The girls will perform alongside dancers from the English Youth Ballet, an internationally renowned dance troupe fulfilling a lifelong dream for each of the girls.

One of the dancers, Sophie Poppitt, from Brownhills said: "I am really

excited for the Swan Lake rehearsals and just dancing all day."

Ben Gamer, company manager, said: "Working with English Youth Ballet will be one of the highlights of these talented young dancer's careers, to date."

Set in Tsarist Russia, Swan Lake tells of the rivalry between seductive evil black swan Odile and beautiful but vulnerable white swan Odette.

For tickets contact the Grand box office on 01902 42 92 12 or visit the [grandtheatre.co.uk](http://grandtheatre.co.uk) website.

## CLUBS

Duo give surprising rendition

### THE BLACK COUNTRY SOCIETY

THE 45th Annual General Meeting of the Kingswinford branch of the Black Country Society was held at St Mary's Church Hall, Kingswinford.

President Stan Hill welcomed everyone including the new president of the main society Terry Raybould.

Secretary Alison Jones gave her report – this being her first year in office, and Sylvia Cosnett, treasurer, presented the balance sheet.

Chairman Joan White gave her yearly report and thanked offices and all members for their continued support and help during the year.

Entertainment followed given by Six String Sixpence – a duo of Dave Jones and Geoff Jones, Dave being the husband of Alison. Dave had written and composed a number especially for the society about Kingswinford and its church. This number was quite unexpected and much appreciated.

A superb buffet supper followed and the evening was much enjoyed by members, friends and Six String Sixpence.

The next meeting will be on September 19 in St Mary's Church Hall, 7.45pm. The speaker will be Terry Church – a member of the Black Country Society. His subject will be A Vintage Year. We welcome visitors, friends and new members.

# Women enjoy tea in a country house

### YOXALL WI

THE women had tea at a country house for their August outing. The weather was brilliant for the 35-minute drive to Heath House, Tean.

The women were greeted by Ben Phillips who inherited the property last year and who showed them around personally. The present house has been his family's home for six generations.

The tour began in the attractive gardens, featuring a sunken parterre, an Edwardian Rock Garden and a delightful Orangery built in 1831. Tea was served in the elegant dining room and some were privileged to use the family's most valuable piece of furniture – a William IV circular extending dining table.

Ben's grandmother lived in the house as a widow for 19 years. During this time it was used as a film location.

Ben's father inherited the property in 2002 and began opening it to the public.



Yoxall WI members enjoy their trip to Heath House

# Isle of Wight a highlight

### WEDNESBURY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

WEDNESBURY Men's Probus Club has had a busy few months. Among the activities was the holiday to the Isle of Wight.

There was also the anniversary luncheon on June 22 with more than 40 people in attendance.

There has also been a good variety of speakers with John Austin asking Do you remember?, Keith Cheeth-

am talking about Charles Dickens, complete with costume and Patricia Boyd giving an interesting talk about the similarities between the Diamond Jubilees of Queen Victoria and the Queen. Ian Bott

gave a talk about Old Wednesbury and John Yates told of the funny things which occur at the Registry Office.

There will be a baked potato evening on October 20 at Wednesbury Methodist Centre, with entertainment supplied by Ian Casey. The Christmas luncheon is on Thursday, November 29 at the Terrace Restaurant.





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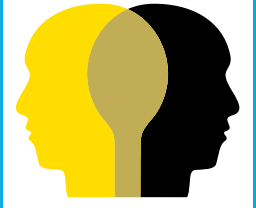
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# MANOR FARM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



MANOR FARM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 2012/13

## VOCATIONAL COURSES 2012/13

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(unless quoted)

**Enrolment dates on page 5**

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|-----------|------------|
| Tuesday   | 6pm-9pm    |
| Wednesday | 3pm-6pm    |
| Thursday  | 12noon-3pm |

**Sage Bookkeeping**

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Tuesday  | 1pm-3pm     |
| Thursday | 10am-12noon |

### English Qualifications

Gain a recognised qualification and improve your English skills. We offer a supportive environment to enable you to reach your true potential.

|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| Monday  | 9.30am-12noon |
| Tuesday | 12noon-2.30pm |
| Tuesday | 6.30pm-9pm    |



Reach your true potential

### Maths Qualifications

Gain a recognised qualification and improve your Maths skills. We offer a supportive environment to enable you to reach your true potential.

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Monday    | 9.30am-12noon |
| Monday    | 6.30pm-9pm    |
| Wednesday | 12.30pm-3pm   |
| Friday    | 9.30am-12noon |

### Design and Craft Qualifications

Gain a recognised qualification in Floral Craft or Sugarcraft for those who wish to explore their creativity.

**City and Guilds Creative Techniques in Floristry Level 1 – Beginners**

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Tuesday | 5pm-8pm |
|---------|---------|

**City and Guilds Creative Techniques in Floristry Level 2 – Improvers**

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Tuesday | 6pm-9pm |
|---------|---------|

**City and Guilds Creative Techniques in Sugarcraft Level 1 – Beginners**

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| Monday | 6pm-9pm |
|--------|---------|

### Teaching Qualifications

Are you looking to teach adults? Must-have qualifications for those delivering learning to adults. Do you want to see if this is the career for you? The PTTLs is a great place to start.

**City and Guilds Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTTLs)**

|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| Tuesday | 6.30pm-8.30pm |
| Friday  | 10am-12noon   |

**Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector Level 4 (CCTLs)**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| Thursday | 5pm-9pm |
|----------|---------|

**Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector Level 5 Teaching Qualification (DTTLs)**

|          |         |
|----------|---------|
| Thursday | 5pm-9pm |
|----------|---------|

### Childcare Qualifications

Courses leading to recognised qualification. Must-have qualifications for those seeking employment in this area or those already working in childcare environments.

**Childcare Level 1**

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Tuesday | 1pm-3pm |
|---------|---------|

**NVQ Childrens Care Learning and Development Level 2 (Certificate for Children and Young People's Workforce)**

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Wednesday | 7pm-9pm |
|-----------|---------|

**NVQ Childrens Care Learning and Development Level 3 (Diploma for Children and Young People's Workforce)**

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Wednesday | 7pm-9pm |
|-----------|---------|



MANOR FARM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 2012/13

## RECREATIONAL COURSES 2012/13

### MONDAY



#### Floristry for Beginners

For those 'budding' florists.  
7pm-9pm

#### No Fuss Computing

A beginners computer course.  
10am-12noon

#### Confidence Building

10am-12noon

#### Electronics for the Beginner to the Improver

Take the hands on approach to servicing your electrical equipment at home!  
7pm-9pm

#### Arts Mixed Media

Includes watercolours.  
7pm-9pm

#### Beginners Spanish

10am-12noon and 7pm-9pm

#### Improvers Spanish

A course for people who know the basics.  
7pm-9pm

#### Creative Writing

9.30am-11.30am

#### Family Tree Finders

Are you interested in your family history? Come and join our group.  
7pm-9pm

### TUESDAY

#### Trace your Family Tree

7pm-9pm

#### Art

Held at Rushall Community Centre.  
1pm-3pm

#### Creative Writing

12.30pm-2.30pm and 7pm-9pm

#### First Aid at Work

A 10 week course.  
6.30pm-9pm



## Our Courses Offered At Other Venues

### PALFREY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**Milton Street, Palfrey WS1 3JY Telephone: 01922 614316**

**COURSES START WEEK COMMENCING: Monday 24th Sept 2012 (unless otherwise stated)**

| TUESDAY                      | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Childcare Level 1<br>7pm-9pm | Childrens Care Learning and Development: Level 2 and 3<br>Certificate for Children and Young People's Workforce.<br>10am-12noon Level 2<br>12.30pm-2.30pm Level 3 | Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools Level 2 & 3<br>Teaching Assistant Qualification.<br>10am-12noon Level 2<br>12.30pm-2.30pm Level 3 |

### Access to Employment

A course to provide valuable skills and improve confidence.  
10am-12noon

### British Sign Language

A beginners course.  
7pm-9pm

### WEDNESDAY

#### Digital Photography

Get the best from your digital camera.  
1pm-3pm and 7pm-9pm

#### Introduction to Basic Drawing

9.30am-11.30am

#### Access to Employment

A course to provide valuable skills and improve confidence.  
10am-12noon

#### Confidence Building

10am-12noon

#### Jewellery Making for Beginners

7pm-9pm

#### Basic Floristry

For all 'budding' florists  
10am-12noon

#### Sugarcraft

Complete beginners and those with a little experience welcome.  
7pm-9pm

#### Tap Dancing

6.30pm-7.15pm Beginners  
7.20pm-8.20pm Improvers

#### Watercolours

Held at Pelsall Activity Centre.  
1pm-3pm

### THURSDAY

#### Watercolours with Steph

6.30pm-8.30pm

#### No Fuss Computing

A beginners computer course.  
10am-12noon or 7pm-9pm

#### All Things Delicious

A series of short cookery courses offered throughout the year:

- Wok Mania
- Christmas Carol's Cakes
- Curry Club
- Bake Away

### Cooking at College

Preparing young people to cook for themselves whilst at college or living alone!

7-9pm for all cookery courses



### FRIDAY

#### No Fuss Computing

A course suitable for total beginners with no pressure of an exam covering all aspects of the computer.  
10am-12noon

#### ICT Easy as 123

With the help of our short courses:

1. Internet / Email Shopping, holidays to chatting with friends – a five week course.
2. Publisher Design your own cards, posters and invitations – a five week course.
3. Security Learn how to keep your home computer secure – a three week course.

#### Digital Photography for Beginners

7pm-9pm

### SATURDAY

#### CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering

A one day course.  
9.30am-4.30pm

#### Pelsall Photography Club

10am-12noon

#### Emergency First Aid at Work

9.30am-4.30pm

#### EBAY for Beginners

A 3 week course.  
10am-12noon

### SUNDAY

#### Drivers CPC

Courses also offered Saturday daytime.  
9am-5pm

#### Rushall Healing Group

Unwind and receive natural healing from Healing Trust volunteers (see [www.midlandshealing.org.uk](http://www.midlandshealing.org.uk)) at Rushall Community Centre – seated or reclined – fully clothed – helps physical, emotional, stress (see our website for results of hospital audit) – suggested donation minimum £5 call Dave Daniels any time on 01922 611788.  
6.30pm-9.30pm

## Family Learning / Fun Activities – Totally Free!

Our family programmes are designed so that family members can learn and have fun together: parents, carers, grandparents and children are involved in learning.

Come and give it a try! Its completely FREE!

| TUESDAY   |
|---|
| <b>Family Food Fun</b><br>Cooking with the kids.<br>4pm-6pm |
| WEDNESDAY   |
| <b>Family Photography Fun</b><br>5.30pm-7pm                 |
| ONE-OFF SESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR                        |
| <b>Healthy Lunchboxes</b><br>Times TBC                      |

## Saturday is Fun Day with Manor Farm for your family!

| SATURDAY  |
|---|
| <b>Top Dads</b><br>Source the perfect place to construct the perfect Den, use map reading skills to sniff out other neighbours near by.<br>10am-1pm |
| <b>Nurture The Family</b><br>Make a beautiful sculpture for the local community centre to represent nurture using recycled materials.<br>1pm-4pm    |
| <b>The Parent Puzzle</b><br>Fun packed day exploring collage and texture to create a 3D jigsaw to take home.<br>10am-1pm                            |

### The Way Things Were

Create your own treasured memory map to share and take home using a range of beautiful materials.  
1pm-4pm

### Parent Power

You don't need to be a super nanny to nurture the family!  
10am-12noon

### Family Photography Fun

Learn how to take the perfect photographs.  
10am-11.30am

### Family Wilderness Day

Come along and learn some basic techniques in the outdoor wilderness. You may end up with a family of fire breathing dragons and knowing how to tie knots fit for the 7 seas.  
10am-1pm

### New Courses for a new career!

**Youth Work Qualifications:** Level 1 and 2 starting soon  
Call now for more details

# Enrol Now!!!

## For more details Call Community Office on 01922 614316

## King George Crescent, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1EU



NEWS

# Work begins on revamp of a former factory site

## New store being built



**Construction work ploughs ahead on the new Co-op store in Walsall**

CONSTRUCTION of a new Co-op store which is creating more than 25 jobs in Walsall is forging ahead with the main structure now in place. The 3,000 sq ft shop is being built on the former Vauxhall Motors site along the Broadway with an anticipated completion date of November. Work on clearing the site started in June and the shape of the building is now visible.

### Post

The existing Midcounties post office which is based nearby will be relocated to the new store on the corner of Hawes Road. The Steve Thompson Vauxhall dealership was empty for two years after shutting in 2010 with the loss of 20 jobs. It had been trading for 40

years. The business closed just five years after the site's showroom had undergone a £250,000 revamp. It was put up for sale in 2009 following the retirement of owner Mr Thompson. Although the sister Vauxhall dealership in Eastern Avenue, Lichfield, was bought by Vertu Motors in a £2.8m deal, no buyer could be found for the Walsall building. Andy Cresswell, deputy chief executive of the Co-op, said: "We are delighted to be investing in an area where we already have a major presence which includes a number of food stores, travel and funeral branches and regional offices." It comes as 30 jobs will be created through the opening of another new Co-op store in Walsall Wood by the beginning of next year.

## WORK has begun on the multi-million pound revamp of a former landmark car factory in Walsall.

Developers have revealed "a number" of firms had shown an interest in occupying a unit at the site of the former car parts factory GKN Driveline in Aldridge. Existing buildings are being renovated with new roofing, flooring and electrics to provide offices and warehouse space. Developers say it is likely to be put on the market in 12 months' time. Work is expected to continue into next year and it is hoped the development will allow firms the chance to expand without having to move out of the area, as well as bringing new businesses to the borough.

### Interest

The manufacturing complex in Middlemore Lane is under the ownership and management of Birmingham-based Property Link (Midlands). Sunny Singh, surveyor for the property agency, said: "There has already been quite a bit of interest for the site from local businesses and businesses outside of the borough. It will probably be 12 months before it can be put on the market formally." "It is a vast site," he added. "There's still much work to be done. The buildings already exist but there needs to be major refurbishment work such as new roofs, floors and electrics." Up to £4 million is being invested in the 347,125 sq ft site which was once occupied by more than 200 workers.

## Saddle up for ride

FUNDRAISERS Upper GI Blues are organising a sponsored 870-mile ride – the equivalent of the Wales Coastal Path – on an exercise bike in the Walsall Manor Hospital reception from Friday, September 14, in aid of equipment for the hospital. To take part call Brenda Yates on (01922) 630869.

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a: Harden Hall, 235 Coalpool Lane, Walsall, WS3 1RF

**idealcarehomes.co.uk**



**FOCUS ON WILLENHALL****Taste of Italy at market**

A TASTE of Italy will be coming to Willenhall, as the town prepares to host its second continental market.

The return of the popular Italian market has been welcomed by traders and councillors in the town.

It will return to Market Place on November 9, complete with Italian food, cars and even an Italian singer.

Councillor Carl Creaney, representative for Willenhall South, said anything to boost footfall in the town centre would be welcomed.

"The council has to open its eyes and try anything to bring in punters to Willenhall market," he said. "Something like this brings people in to the town, encourages them to shop there and might encourage them to come back too."

**Traders**

Councillor Creaney issued a rallying cry for people to turn out to the event, which this year falls on a regular market day.

"If it's really successful it may pave the way for more of these kind of events in the future," he added.

Many traders have welcomed the move.

Yvonne Giles, of Kings Fruit and Veg stall, which has been trading in the borough for decades, said she hopes the Italian market will be a boost for all traders in the town.

"Let's hope it brings lots of people into the town centre," she said. "It's good they are holding it on a Friday."

**Rare opportunity to visit a key piece of town's history**

**WILLENHALL Lock Museum, which is usually only open for pre-booked visits, will be throwing open its doors to visitors on Saturday.**

Visitors will get the chance to have a look around a lock-maker's house, which has been restored to its original Edwardian style.

In 2008 the grade II listed museum, in New Road, closed its doors after having its £12,000 a year grant from Walsall Council removed.

It was bought by the Black Country Living Museum and is now only open for pre-booked group visits.

The open day will take place from 10am to 4pm.

**Family**

Visitors will be able to check out what was once the home of the Hodson family of lock makers. Demonstrations will be given in the gaslit rooms and the machinery will also be in use.

Locks from throughout

**by Catherine Dalton**

the ages will be on show, along with an expert locksmith who will be on hand to answer questions.

Jo Moody, senior curator, said: "The free open day is an opportunity for people to explore the history on their doorstep and we are delighted that the superbly preserved house and the workshops can be shared with everyone."

Willenhall Lock Museum, also known as the Locksmith's House, first opened to the public in 1987. Campaigners battled to save the museum from total closure when plans were to cut its funding were revealed.



Jessica Rowe, Nadine Turner, Laura Melia, Jennifer Spratt, Nathan Babb and Mark Ribgy-Bishop, starring in Spellbound at the Prince of Wales Centre

**Theatre group is ready to cast spell**

A WILLENHALL theatre group's production hopes to leave audiences spellbound this week.

Spellbound! The Musical has been created by father-and-son production team Mark and Alexander Ribgy-Bishop and is being staged at the Prince of Wales Centre in Cannock by the Willenhall-based Essential Productions.

**Rehearsals**

Alexander said: "We have been rehearsing since March this year and the cast have worked tremendously hard, pulling up to four rehearsals a week in some cases."

The show starts its run tonight (Thursday) and continues until Sunday night.

Tickets cost between £9.50 and £12.50 and are available from the Church Street centre's box office on 01543 578762.

**New car park at precinct**

PLANS for a new long stay car park and park-and-ride are expected to be introduced around The Square shopping precinct in New Invention by January.

The £200,000 package of improvements have been agreed by Walsall Council and work is expected to begin in the coming months.

Land at the rear of the shops will be resurfaced to create the car park with designated bays, improved security and better lighting. Restricted parking of between two and three hours will be introduced at the front of the precinct.

Willenhall councillor Ian Shires has been leading the campaign for work and has welcomed the funding.

Councillor Shires said the scheme aims to encourage people to shop locally or to leave their cars and go on public transport.

"There is a big area at the back of The Square that is used as a car park but is not marked out and we are looking at making that a proper long-stay car park," he said.

**Ancestors come under spotlight**

WORKSHOPS are set to be held in Willenhall to help people find out about their family tree.

Family Tree Finders will be at Willenhall Youth and Community Foundation, Gomer Street, on September 10 from 10am to 11am.

**Dressing up fun as gallery displays author's pictures**

FAMILIES flocked to a fun day to celebrate an exhibition of pictures by children's author Judith Kerr OBE, who wrote The Tiger Who Came To Tea and Mog The Forgetful Cat.

Claire Jones, of Honeybourne Way, Willenhall, took her three-year-old daughter Hermione, who enjoyed dressing up as Mog when the event was held at Wolverhampton Art Gallery. Claire said: "She has The Tiger Who Came To Tea book and we've seen the show so she was really excited about coming."

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## What's On! Walsall

### DC Fontana back at the Bookmark

THE live music scene is looking up again in Bloxwich as Bookmark Theatre sees the return of Art & Soul and 1960s-inspired vibe DC Fontana on Saturday.

The band last lit up the stage of the Elmore Row venue in December, and now they are back with a new line-up that will be presenting a mix of their own music, 60s covers and television and film-influenced sounds.

Doors open at 8pm for a 8.30pm start and there will be a bar. Tickets cost £5 from Bloxwich Library – advance booking is recommended – telephone 01922 655900. Stuart Williams from Bloxwich Library Forum said: "Their music is easily up there with the best from the 1960s."

### Tribute night to the King of Pop

A TRIBUTE night to Michael Jackson will be performed at Walsall's Banks's Stadium.

An evening of music in the Bonser Suite will be delivered by Robert Alexander on December 14. Tickets are £39.50 including a three course meal, call 01922 651418 to book.

### It's Talon talent

EAGLES tribute band Talon will perform at the Banks's Stadium in Walsall on October 13. Tickets are £30 including a three-course meal. Call 01922 414416.

# X-tra special Civic date for hot new girl band Little Mix

THE HOTTEST new girl band in the country, Little Mix, have announced their debut UK tour for 2013. It will be taking in 18 venues across the UK, including a concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Tuesday, February 5. Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday) at 9am.

## First chance to hear the 17th album

ROCK survivors and internet pioneers Marillion have a loyal following who will be out in force when the band play Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thursday, September 13.

It will be the first chance to hear tracks from the group's forthcoming 17th album, *Sounds That Can't Be Made*.

Still most remembered by the public for their 1985 hit *Kayleigh*, featuring original singer Fish, the band have now been fronted by singer Steve Hogarth for more than two decades. They were one of the first bands to use the internet to keep in close touch with fans.

Since their X Factor success, Little Mix have wasted no time in wowing huge crowds at T4 On The Beach and as special guests on JLS's 2012 summer tour.

Their debut headline tour follows the triumphant second number 1 single *Wings*, which entered the top of the charts on Sunday, and the release of their debut album, due in November.

The four girls – Perrie Edwards, Jesy Nelson, Leigh-Anne Pincock and Jade Thirlwall – have spent much of this year working on songs for their debut album.

Little Mix originally auditioned for the X Factor as solo performers but – under the tutelage of judge and mentor Tulisa Contostavlos – they joined forces to become X Factor's first ever victorious group. The girls shot straight to No1 with debut single *Cannonball*.

Tickets cost £29.50 or £19.50. Call 0870 320 7000.



Little Mix – the X Factor winners and chart-topping girl group will be coming to Wolverhampton Civic Hall as part of their first headline UK tour in February

## This Blonde definitely is more fun

Legally Blonde  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham

OMIGOD you guys – what a lot of pink and what a lot of love in the room.

The opening night of this award-winning musical was like one big happy hen party as women, young and old cheered the tale of Elle Wood's heartbroken but feisty rise through Harvard Law School. And how they whistled at the delivery boy's moves – and what moves they were!

The production includes some fine toe-tapping numbers. The action pulsates with energy and there are impressive performances.

Faye Brookes and Iwan Lewis are perfect in the lead roles while Gareth Gates, as Warner, plays a convincing if tuneful rat. Jennifer Ellison is commanding as salon owner Paulette.

Sarah Cowen

### Theatre takes on Canterbury Tales

A PERFORMANCE of The Canterbury Tales will be put on by Aldridge Youth Theatre this month.

It takes place in Noddy Park Road on September 20, 21, 22 from 7.30pm with the play adapted by Martin Riley. Natalie Webster, who has just completed her A levels at Aldridge School, and Steffi Procter formerly at Queen Mary's High School and studying at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, are two of a team of directors.

Tickets are £7 for adults and £6 concessions but for more details call 01922 458615.

### Chance to go wild at craft morning

A GROUP for young wildlife enthusiasts in Walsall will be holding a craft session on Saturday.

The Really Green Team will run the event at Moorcroft Wood, off Hawkswood Drive, Moxley, from 10am to noon. To book on to the event, which costs £2.50, call 01922 459813. Membership of the group is free and children can register by emailing [bowersm@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:bowersm@walsall.gov.uk)

### A sporting night

FOOTBALL fans can attend a sporting dinner with former West Bromwich Albion and Wales striker John Hartson at Walsall's Banks's Stadium on November 8. Tickets are £30 including a meal. Call 01922 651414.

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## SATURDAY'S TV 8.09.12

## CHOICE



Roger Allam

**The Thick of It BBC2, 9.45pm**  
The recent US series Veep left some comedy fans feeling slightly unsettled – was the show's creator Armando Iannucci planning to permanently abandon Westminster for the White House? Luckily we needn't have worried, as he's turning his attention back to British politics. It turns out that since we last saw him, Peter Mannion MP (Roger Allam) has been made Secretary of State for The Department of Social Affairs and Citizenship (DoSAC), where he's constantly thwarted by his coalition partner, Junior Minister Fergus Williams MP (Geoffrey Streatfeild).

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News. (R) 4.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.15 Football Focus. 1.00 World Class. 1.30 Homes Under the Hammer. 2.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 3.30 Cash in the Attic. (R) 4.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.00 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 5.20 Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. 6.35 All New Total Wipeout. Richard Hammond and Amanda Byram present as 20 more foolhardy Brits, including a trainee maths teacher, a postman and an ageing female rocker, take on the obstacle course. 7.35 Doctor Who. The Time Lord is asked to stop an unmanned spaceship hurtling toward Earth, so he assembles a team of helpers. But once on board, they are amazed to find a live cargo of dinosaurs. 8.20 The National Lottery: Secret Fortune. High-tension quiz show, presented by Nick Knowles. Best friends Tony and Jim attempt to win the top prize of £100,000. 9.15 Last Night of the Proms. Jiri Belohlavek takes to the podium to conduct the concluding part of this year's rousing Proms finale, with audiences around the UK joining the live celebrations. 10.45 BBC News: Weather. National Lottery Update. 11.05 Live at the Apollo. Rich Hall hosts the stand-up show. (R) 11.50 The Football League Show. 12.20 Film: Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead. (1995) Crime thriller, starring Andy Garcia. 2.10 Weatherview. 2.15 BBC News.**

## BBC2

**6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 12.00 The Sky at Night. (R) 12.20 Coast. (R) 12.30 Film: The Big Circus. (1959) 2.15 Film: A Man for All Seasons. (1966) 4.15 Flog It! (R) 5.00 Wartime Farm. (R) 6.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. Gavin & Stacey stars Alison Steadman and Larry Lamb travel through Sussex in search of bargains, starting in Arundel and ending at an auction in Eastbourne. (R) 7.00 Dad's Army. A daring bid to rescue Walker and Godfrey from a stricken pumping station ends with the whole platoon trapped and facing the prospect of drowning. (R) 7.30 Last Night of the Proms. The finale to the Proms season, live from the Royal Albert Hall, in which violinist Nicola Benedetti and tenor Joseph Calleja join the BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Jiri Belohlavek. Continues on BBC1. 9.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry is joined by comedians John Bishop, Frank Skinner, Sean Lock and regular panellist Alan Davies in an extended edition of the quiz with a difference. (R) 9.45 The Thick of It. New series. Peter Mannion takes charge of the Department of Social Affairs and Citizenship – but is hindered by a new colleague, Armando Iannucci's satire, starring Roger Allam. 10.15 Film: A Single Man. (2009) Premiere. Drama set in the 1960s, starring Colin Firth. 11.50 Film: Harper. (1966) Detective thriller, starring Paul Newman.**

## ITV1

**6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 11.20 The Real Housewives of New York City. 12.15 The Real Housewives of New York City. 1.15 ITV News: Weather. 1.20 Film: Columbo. (1968) Mystery. Murder Can Be Hazardous to Your Health. (1991) 3.20 Film: The Living Daylights. (1987) 5.55 Regional Programme - Weather. 6.10 ITV News: Weather. 6.25 New You've Been Framed! A fresh selection of comical clips. 6.55 Fool Britannia. Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly. 7.25 Red or Black? World-class cricketers Mark Ramprakash and Kevin Pietersen, daredevil motorcyclists and acrobats take part in challenges as eight contestants compete for places in the final four. 8.10 The X Factor. Gary Barlow, and Louis Walsh continue their search for the next big thing in music as more solo singers and groups set out to impress at the auditions. 9.10 Red or Black? With Ronan Keating. 9.55 The Jonathan Ross Show. Cheryl Cole chats to the host and performs in the studio, and Andrew Lloyd Webber talks about his arena tour of Jesus Christ Superstar. 10.55 ITV News: Weather. 11.10 Film: The World Is Not Enough. (1999) Adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. 1.30 The Store: ITV News. Headlines. 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00 Channel 4 Presents – Nathan Stephens "Warrior". (R) 6.05 Paralympic Games 2012 Tonight. (R) 7.00 Paralympic Games Breakfast Show. 9.15 Paralympic Games 2012. Coverage of this morning's swimming and athletics. 1.00 Paralympic Games 2012. Including 5-a-side football, wheelchair rugby and swimming. 6.30 Channel 4 News. 7.00 Paralympic Games 2012 Tonight. Clare Balding and Ade Adepitan introduce live coverage of the final evening of the London Games, including athletics, wheelchair basketball, swimming and table tennis. 10.30 The Last Leg with Adam Hills. The comedian presents an alternative review of the day's Paralympics action, focusing on the key moments and talking points with guests from the sports and showbiz worlds. 11.15 Film: The Butterfly Effect. (2004) A college student discovers he can travel into his past and change events, but his meddling has unforeseen consequences. Supernatural thriller, with Ashton Kutcher and Amy Smart. 1.25 David Blaine's Street Magic. Roadside magic show. (R) 2.10 Happy Endings. Penny tries to overcome her traditional birthday bad luck. 2.30 This Is J03. (R) 2.35 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. The Savages pick up the pieces after Dodger's shock announcement. Esther and Ruby dread their first day of college, while the Kanes could be forced to accept charity. (R) 4.45 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.40 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R) 5.50 The Treacle People. (R)**

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai. 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.10 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 11.25 Celebrity Big Brother: Final. (R) 1.25 Film: Back to the Secret Garden. (2000) 5.10 Film: Jesse Stone: Benefit of the Doubt. (2012) 7.00 Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Mark Nicholas presents action from the opening Twenty20 match of the three-game series at the Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground. 8.05 5 News Weekend. 8.10 NCIS. A lieutenant apparently commits suicide by jumping from an aircraft carrier, and Ziva and McGee are dispatched to inform the widow – but arrive to find that she has been murdered. (R) 9.10 CSI: Miami. A woman is found dead on the beach, and Horatio believes serial killer the Miami Taunter is responsible – but the team's prime suspect seems to have an alibi. 10.05 NCIS. In the first of a two-part story, the entire team is put in danger while hunting for the killer of a former NCIS agent. Part two follows. (R) 11.05 NCIS. Part two of two. Vance sticks to the rules as he investigates the death of a fellow agent, but Gibbs and Franks take matters into their own hands. Last in the series. (R) 12.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 HouseBusters. (R) 4.25 Divine Designs. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)**

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
7.00 Great TV Mistakes. Mishaps and continuity errors from Fawcett Towers, Friends, EastEnders, Doctor Who and Gavin & Stacey come under the spotlight. 8.00 Top Gear. A trio of supercars are tested in Italy. 9.00 Our War. Documentary exploring the war in Afghanistan.  
**BBC Four**  
7.00 Africa's Magnificent Beasts. 8.00 She-Wolves: England's Early Queens. 9.00 Inspector Montalbano. 10.45 Storyville: The \$750 Million Thief.  
**ITV2**  
3.10 Film: Curly Sue (1991) 5.10 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 6.55 Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) 9.10 The Xtra Factor. 10.10 Celebrity Juice. 10.55 Film: I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (2007)  
**ITV3**  
3.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 5.55 Murder, She Wrote 7.00 Foyle's War 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Crime Connections  
**ITV4**  
1.45 Film: Without a Clue (1988) 4.00 The Sweeney 7.00 Cycling 8.00 The Sweeney 9.00 Film: Sweeney! (1977) 11.05 The Sweeney  
**E4**  
3.00 T4: Desperate Housewives 4.00 T4: Revenge 5.00 T4: How I Met Your Mother 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Film: The Seeker: The Dark is Rising (2007) 9.00 Film: She's All That (1999) 11.00 The Inbetweeners  
**Film4**  
3.05 Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961) 5.20 Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) 7.05 St Trinian's (2007) 9.00 Transporter 3 (2008) Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham. 11.00 Oldboy (2003)

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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 9.09.12

## CHOICE



Matthew Rhys

The Scapegoat  
ITV1, 9pm

Rebecca, The Birds, Don't Look Now – the works of author Daphne Du Maurier have made for some great thrillers, and ITV will be hoping that The Scapegoat is no exception. It's set in 1952, and stars Matthew Rhys in the dual role of John Standing and Johnny Spence, two very different men who just happen to look absolutely identical. Following a chance encounter, former teacher Standing finds himself taking on the charismatic Spence's life, which turns out to include a crumbling stately home, drug-taking mother, unhappy wife and two mistresses.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Country Tracks. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** BBC News. **12.05** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.05** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.05** Cash in the Attic. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Planet Earth Live: A Tale of Three Bears. **5.35** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Highlights. Action from the race at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza. **7.05** BBC News: Regional News. **7.30** Countryfile. The team visits the Furness Peninsula in Cumbria. Julia Bradbury learns how the landscape has been shaped. Matt Baker boards a schooner and James Wong builds the perfect sandcastle. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.30** Inspector George Gently. The adopted child of a middle-class couple is kidnapped and suspicion immediately falls upon the natural mother, who is thought to have "stolen" her baby back. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Regional Programme. **11.10** Regional Programme. **11.40** Film: *Honeymoon in Vegas*. (1992) A private detective races against the clock to win back his fiancée after losing her as a betting stake in a card game. Andrew Bergman's romantic comedy, starring Nicolas Cage. **1.10** Weatherview. **1.15** Sign Zone: The Dark. Nature's Nighttime World. The puma's nocturnal hunting behaviour. Last in the series. (R) **2.15** Holly City. (R) **3.15** Good Cop. (R) **4.15** News.

## BBC2

**6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **12.30** Film: *Ride Lonesome*. (1959) **1.45** Film: *The Victors*. (1963) **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.15** My Perfect Wheelchair. **6.15** Swimming with Crocodiles. Part two of two. Ben Fogle travels to Australia's Northern Territory to research the saltwater crocodile – said to be the most aggressive of all reptiles. (R) **7.15** Richard Hammond's Crash Course. The host travels to Oregon, where he tries to get to grips with a trio of powerful logging machines – the feller-buncher, dangle head processor and log loader. **8.00** China on Four Wheels. Part one of two. Anita Rani and Justin Rowlett travel from Beijing to Shanghai to discover how China's increasing global power has changed its citizens' lives. **9.00** Dragons' Den. New series. Duncan Bannatyne, Hilary Devey, Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden and Theo Paphitis meet more aspiring entrepreneurs seeking investment, including a former professional boxer. **10.00** Mock the Week. With Greg Davies, Andi Osho and Stewart Francis. (R) **10.30** Hilary Devey's Women at the Top. Part one of two. The lack of female business leaders. (R) **11.30** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Highlights. Action from the race at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza. (R) **1.00** BBC News. **4.00** Close.

## ITV1

**6.00** CITV: Mini CITV. **7.30** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The X Factor. (R) **1.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **2.30** Film: *Columbo: Rest in Peace*. Mrs Columbo. (1990) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Ian McShane. **4.30** Doc Martin. (R) **5.35** The Talent Show Story. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Coronation Street. Hour-long episode. Tommy is surprised when Tyrone turns up eager to make friends, but Tina is not so forgiving and angrily confronts Kirsty – causing her waters to break. **8.00** The X Factor. In the second edition this week, Gary Barlow, Nicole Scherzinger, Tulisa and Louis Walsh welcome more singers to the stage as the auditions continue. **9.00** The Scapegoat. A man is persuaded to swap places with his perfect double and finds himself drawn into a new life, with disastrous consequences. Daphne Du Maurier adaptation, starring Matthew Rhys. **11.00** ITV News: Weather. **11.15** Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the second weekend of the season, including Harlequins v London Welsh, Bath v London Wasps and Northampton Saints v Exeter Chiefs. **12.15** The Store: ITV News Headlines. **2.15** Golden Balls. (R) **3.05** Motorsport UK. **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** Morning News.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Paralympic Games 2012 Tonight. (R) **7.00** Ironman 2012. **7.25** British Rallycross. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Paralympic Games Breakfast Show. **11.30** Paralympic Games 2012. Featuring 7-a-side football, wheelchair rugby and the marathons. **5.25** The Great British Paraochestra. Charles Hazlewood's orchestra of disabled musicians. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Paralympic Games 2012 Closing Ceremony. Jon Snow and Krishnan Guru-Murthy present coverage of the end of the Games, featuring a concert by Coldplay and the extinguishing of the Paralympic Flame. **11.30** I'm Spazticus. Highlights from the show in which disabled performers play pranks on the public, featuring the cerebral palsy police line-up, Alan the talking guide dog and more favourite moments. **12.00** Bill Bailey: Dandelion Mind. A stand-up show loosely based on the theme of doubt, featuring musings on celebrity, creationism and Michael Winner, as well as a disco reworking of a Gary Numan classic. (R) **1.00** American Football Live. Denver Broncos v Pittsburgh Steelers (Kick-off 1.20am). Nat Coombs is joined by Mike Carlson to present coverage of the clash at Sports Authority Field at Mile High. **4.45** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. Noel Edmonds hosts the game show in which contestants try to guess the values of mystery boxes. (R) **5.50** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. Chocolate cheesecake, blueberry Bakewell tart and Sicilian lemon thyme cake. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerets. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.20** Celebrity Wedding Planner. (R) **12.20** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.20** Film: *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*. (1996) **3.05** Film: *Daddy Day Camp*. (2007) **4.50** Film: *The Aristocats*. (1970) **6.30** 5 News Weekend. **6.35** Film: *The Fifth Element*. (1997) A 23rd-century New York cab driver protects a mysterious woman destined to save the world from destruction. Sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis, Gary Oldman and Milla Jovovich. Edited for daytime broadcast. **9.00** Film: *Resident Evil: Extinction*. (2007) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Milla Jovovich. **10.50** Film: *The Replacement Killers*. (1998) Action thriller, with Chow Yun-Fat. **12.35** SuperCasino. **4.00** The FBI Files. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** World's Craziest Fools **7.30** Jessica Ennis: Golden Girl **8.00** Film: *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Bad Education **11.15** American Dad!  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Darwin's Struggle: The Evolution of the Origin of Species **8.00** The Thirties in Colour **9.00** Only Yesterday: The Carpenters' Story **10.00** Film: *Heartbreaker* (2010) **11.40** Here Comes the Summer – The Undertones Story  
**ITV2**  
**2.55** Film: *Dragonheart* (1996) **5.00** The X Factor **6.00** The Xtra Factor **7.00** Film: *Evan Almighty* (2007) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Film: *Gladiator* (2000)  
**ITV3**  
**3.55** Film: *The BFG* (1989) **5.45** David Walliams: The Genius of Dahl **6.50** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes **7.55** Wycliffe **9.00** Film: *The Witches of Eastwick* (1987) **11.20** Cracker  
**ITV4**  
**5.00** Film: *Support Your Local Gunfighter* (1971) **7.00** Cycling **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00** Premiership Rugby Union **10.00** Film: *The Krays* (1990)  
**E4**  
**3.10** Charlie's Angels **4.05** New Girl **4.35** Suburgatory **5.00** Revenge **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Film: *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* (1992) **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.05** 2 Broke Girls **11.35** New Girl  
**Film4**  
**2.55** The Italian Job (1969) **4.50** Ladyhawke (1985) **7.10** Clueless (1995) Comedy, starring Alicia Silverstone. **9.00** My Sister's Keeper (2009) **11.15** Fatal Attraction (1987)

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## Film Choices

## MONDAY

**Lethal Weapon, Channel 5, 10pm**

An unstable Vietnam veteran cop teams up with a by-the-book Los Angeles police detective to investigate the apparent suicide of the daughter of a wealthy businessman, leading them to a violent and bloody confrontation with a ruthless drug cartel under the control of a retired US general. Action thriller, starring Mel Gibson, Danny Glover and Gary Busey. (1987)

## TUESDAY

**On a Clear Day, BBC1, 11.45pm**

A middle-aged and redundant Glasgow shipyard worker feels he has let down his wife and his estranged son. In a bid to regain his self-respect and prove his worth to his family, he embarks on a punishing training schedule with only one goal in mind – to swim the English Channel. Drama, starring Peter Mullan. (2005)

## WEDNESDAY

**Assassins, ITV1, 10.35pm**

Hitman Robert Rath is planning to quit his lethal profession, especially when he is stalked by a ruthless younger assassin who has no qualms about killing innocent bystanders. But as Rath takes on his last assignment, he decides to protect his intended target after his rival comes gunning for her. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and Antonio Banderas. (1995)



A Beautiful Mind, Thursday, BBC1, 11.20pm

## THURSDAY

**Lethal Weapon 3, Channel 5, 9pm**

Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh team up with a reformed small-time crook and a tough, female internal-affairs investigator to track down a former policeman trafficking impounded weaponry to the bosses of organised crime. Action thriller sequel, starring Mel Gibson, Danny Glover and Joe Pesci. (1992)

**A Beautiful Mind, BBC1, 11.20pm**

Biopic of the brilliant American mathematician John Nash, whose prospects of a promising career with the CIA were confounded by paranoid delusions and schizophrenia as the stress of the job proved too much of a burden. Oscar-winning drama, starring Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly and Ed Harris. (2001)

## FRIDAY

**Die Another Day, ITV1, 10.35pm**

James Bond is suspended from duty after being taken hostage in North Korea, but goes against orders to track down those who betrayed him. During the pursuit of the terrorist he was investigating before his capture, he discovers a connection with a British billionaire who has constructed a devastating orbital weapon. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan. (2002)

## Pick of the Week

## Double trouble leads to disaster for John

What could be more exciting for an actor than landing a role in a star-studded new adaptation of a novel by Daphne du Maurier, the author who gave us Rebecca, The Birds and Don't Look Now?

Well, how about landing two roles?

No wonder Matthew Rhys jumped at the chance to star in **The Scapegoat** (Sunday, ITV1, 9pm).

Set in 1952, it's the story of John Standing and Johnny Spence, two very different men who nonetheless have a few things in common.

They have the same initials, they've both reached a crossroads in their lives, and as you may have guessed from the fact they are both played by the same actor, they look absolutely identical.

So how would Rhys describe the two characters? "I'll begin with John Standing, who is a modest, quiet and demure young man with a slightly romantic tinge on the world. He finds himself being made redundant from his teaching position so decides to use the opportunity to go and see the world.

"On the very same night of his

sacking, he meets the very charming Johnny Spence, who has an equally Machiavellian side to him.

"They have this remarkable meeting where they both realise they look identical to one another. Knowing his own life is spiralling out of control, Johnny hatches a plan to switch roles with John."

The plan starts with the two of them hitting the bottle together, and in the morning Standing finds that his new look-alike friend is nowhere to be seen – but Spence's chauffeur has turned up to bring his employer home, and is understandably sceptical when Standing insists there's been a case of mistaken identity.

While the other characters may struggle to tell Spence from Standing, Rhys managed not to get confused during filming.

"It helped that they are such completely different men, with different characteristics and different goals.

"It was more the technical side when they're both sharing a scene together which made it slightly difficult, either through working with the double or reacting to a piece of tape!"

Fortunately, he did have other co-stars so he wasn't talking to himself throughout the entire shoot. Standing finds himself taking on Spence's life, which includes a crumbling stately home choked full of women, including a drug-addicted mother, an eccentric daughter, sister, and two mistresses.

For Rhys, working with his female co-stars, who include Sheridan Smith, Eileen Atkins and Jodhi May was one of the highlights of the drama: "It was just glorious that they were all so different. It was fun going into Johnny's world as John Standing when he's met with this great wall of hatred from all these women."

The teacher eventually starts to get a grip on who's who and starts to build bridges with them, even falling in love.

But when Spence returns with evil intents, it looks like being someone else can have its disadvantages after all.

Unless of course, you happen to be Rhys. He laughs: "All the lip-smacking revelry over evil deeds is just such a joy. I also get the opportunity to do all the bad things you're not allowed to do as a normal, functioning member of society!"



Matthew Rhys heads the cast of The Scapegoat, Sunday, ITV1, 9pm

## Best of the Rest

## MONDAY

**Our Greatest Team: Athletes' Parade, BBC1, 8.30pm**

Any cynical predictions that London 2012 would be an organisational nightmare seemed to be forgotten as soon as Danny Boyle's stirring Opening Ceremony got underway. And as for the naysayers who'd claimed Team GB would buckle under the pressure of performing in front of a home crowd – well, they appeared to be washed away in a tide of medals. So, no wonder the powers-that-be decided an official celebration was in order as they invited athletes from the Olympics and Paralympics to take part in a victory parade. If you couldn't make it to London to show your appreciation in person, this programme brings us all the highlights as the competitors greeted the assembled crowds between Mansion House and Buckingham Palace.

**Leaving, ITV1, 9pm**

A directionless university graduate finds himself falling for an older woman – sound vaguely familiar? Well, before you start picturing Dustin Hoffman and singing Simon and Garfunkel tunes, bear in mind that the new drama series Leaving is a very different proposition to The Graduate. Instead it stars TV newcomer Callum Turner as Aaron Simmons, whose life hasn't panned out quite as he expected. At 25, he has a degree but no job, is still living with his parents, and to top it all off, his ex-girlfriend is marrying his brother. He reacts by getting hideously drunk at the wedding, but 44-year-old hotel employee Julie (Helen McCrory)

decides to tackle him about his self-pity, in the process starting a most unexpected relationship.

## TUESDAY

**Live International Football, ITV1, 7.30pm**

England's World Cup qualifying campaign continues with this Group H match against Ukraine at Wembley Stadium. This is the second fixture for Roy Hodgson's men, who are facing familiar opponents in the Ukrainians, having been drawn against them in the group stage when the visitors co-hosted this year's European Championships. England won that contest 1-0 in June courtesy of a goal from Wayne Rooney, but the Manchester United striker is set to miss this fixture after suffering an unfortunate injury against Fulham in a recent Premier League encounter. Hodgson will be looking to take early control of a group that also contains Montenegro, Poland, San Marino and Moldova.

## WEDNESDAY

**Grand Designs, Channel 4, 9pm**

Kevin McCloud returns for a new run of the acclaimed series in which he follows the structural, financial and emotional journeys of ambitious couples as they embark on the adventure of a lifetime – building their own homes. There are nine unique builds on offer this time, including a 99ft water tower, a minimalist glass

box, and the world's first computer-cut home. The latest builds and renovations take place in Hertfordshire, the west of Ireland, Camden, Brixton, Kennington, Shiplake and Skye, but it'll be interesting to see which pique Kevin's interest and which offerings, like the houseboat made of scrap, leave him rolling his eyes in despair.

## THURSDAY

**The Audience, Channel 4, 9pm**

Wouldn't our lives be so much easier if we had our own personal agony aunt on-call 24 hours a day? Apparently, the leading lights at Channel 4 thought as much, so they've arranged it for a select few lost souls. But they can go one better than offering up just one agony aunt – they've pulled together 50. In this series, people with genuine dilemmas turn to The Audience, 50 ordinary men and women of different backgrounds and ages, for help. First off, we meet 47-year-old Ian Wainwright, who's struggling to decide whether to continue running the family dairy farm, or think about himself and start a

new life somewhere else. The Audience has its work cut out; but 50 heads are better than one, right?

## FRIDAY

**Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers, Channel 5, 8pm**

In the first of a new run, there's echoes of Ice Road Trucks as a convoy treks through the Alps on a 1,200-mile trip to deliver tyres to a Formula One test race in Italy. We also meet seasoned driver Tim Fox who has to collect woodchip from a remote Northumberland moor. Some of Mark Dixon's fans give him more than he bargained for, and 15 rugby league-branded trailers are taken to Old Trafford in Manchester for their unveiling. Great viewing for those who like the genre of course, but to quote Rowan Atkinson in Not the Nine O'Clock News: "If you don't like trucking, tough luck."

**Piers Morgan's Life Stories, ITV1, 9pm**

September 15, marks the 50th anniversary of James Bond on the big screen, so 007 fans worldwide will be raising shaken vodka Martinis and reflecting on half a century of gorgeous girls, gadgets and outrageous adventures. One man who knows the role better than most is Roger Moore, the much-imitated actor who played the part between 1973 and 1985. So who better to open this new series than the man himself? He will be recalling the highs and lows of his acting career and personal life, lifts the lid on his four marriages and recounts the story of his humble upbringing in south London.

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## A £99,950 price-tag for detached house

**A THREE-BEDROOM detached house in a residential area just off West Bromwich Street in Walsall is for sale based on offers around £99,950.**

The property in Windsor Street benefits from gas central heating and uPVC double glazing, with accommodation briefly comprising of reception hall, lounge with dining area, modern

fitted kitchen, newly fitted downstairs bathroom and three bedrooms.

The vestibule has a tiled 'Minton' floor, with the reception hall having an archway into the lounge measuring 13ft 7in by 14ft 10in and having a feature fireplace with inset gas fire and tiled hearth and French doors to the rear garden, while the dining area, 10ft 10in by 12ft 1in, has a feature fireplace with electric fire.

The kitchen, 9ft 11in by 8ft 1in, has a range of wall and base units with roll edge worktops, stainless steel sink and drainer with mixer tap, integral cooker and gas hob with stainless steel cooker hood over, integrated fridge and space for freezer.

The rear lobby has a ceramic tiled floor and plumbing for a washing machine. The bathroom has panelled bath with shower over, low level WC and wash hand basin.

On the first floor are three bedrooms while outside the rear garden has a low maintenance paving with a raised area and gated entrance to the front of the house.

Call Henderson Hynes on (01922) 627 100 for further details.



Agent Henderson Hynes is handling the sale of this detached three-bedroomed home in Walsall

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Guide: £90,000/£110,000

**VIEWING:  
ALL THOSE VIEWING MUST BRING A TORCH  
- NO TORCH = NO VIEWING  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 6th & 7th SEPTEMBER  
@ 10.30 a.m.**

### 25 SOMERFORD PLACE, WILLENHALL

An impressive Detached Late Victorian House used as Two Flats

Grand Floor: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate WC, Cellar First Floor: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, smart Shower Room, Separate WC Driveway at side, Garage, Outbuilding and Garden

Guide: £93,000/£98,000

**VIEWING:  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY,  
6th & 7th SEPTEMBER  
@ 12.00 noon**

### 57 CENTRAL DRIVE, COSELEY

A large and immaculately presented First Floor Flat overlooking an open green and with the benefit of Garden to the rear

Spacious Lounge, well appointed Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, smart Bathroom Gas Central Heating, Store and Outside Store

Guide: £59,000/£64,000

**VIEWING:  
FRIDAY 7th SEPTEMBER @ 3.30 p.m. &  
SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER @ 12.30 p.m.**

### 24 St. JUDES ROAD WEST, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Located close to the Girls' High School and within a mile of the City Centre

A character Semi-Detached now in need of modernisation  
Two Reception, Kitchen, Cellar, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom  
Long Rear Garden

Guide: £73,000/£78,000

**VIEWING:  
THURSDAY 6th SEPTEMBER @ 1.00 p.m. &  
SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER @ 11.30 a.m.**

### 70/70A WROTTESLEY ROAD, TETTENHALL

In a prime residential area, a Detached Property comprising Two Self-Contained Flats

Each offers Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Two bedrooms, Bathroom  
Central Heating, Outside - Two Garages and delightful and extensive Gardens

Guide: £250,000/£270,000

**VIEWING:  
THURSDAY 6th SEPTEMBER @ 1.45 p.m. &  
SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER @ 10.30 a.m.**

### 82 CROSS ROAD, ALBRIGHTON

A short distance from the centre of this attractive and popular village which offers most amenities

A Three Bedroomed Semi overlooking open fields and with pleasant Rear Garden  
Improvement/modernisation needed

Guide: £93,000/£98,000

**THURSDAY 6th SEPTEMBER @ 3.00 p.m. &  
SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER @ 9.30 a.m.**

### 131 WINDSOR AVENUE, PENN

Now a little tired but an excellent opportunity to refurbish a Three Bed Semi in a popular residential area

Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Bathroom, old Garage  
Front and Rear Gardens currently managed by nature!

Guide: £93,000/£98,000

**VIEWING:  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 7th & 8th SEPTEMBER  
@ 9.30 a.m.**

### 14 LONSDALE ROAD, PENN, WOLVERHAMPTON

A very spacious Edwardian House in a good residential location - now stripped to the brick to facilitate full internal renovation and modernisation - a real potential

Guide: £85,000/£95,000

**VIEWING:  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 7th & 8th SEPTEMBER  
@ 10.15 a.m.**

### 243 MERRIDALE STREET WEST, PENN FIELDS

A well presented End Terraced at head of cul de sac  
Modernised with upvc windows, Central Heating, modern Kitchen, GF Bathroom  
Two Reception, Three Bedrooms, smart FF Shower Room

Verandah, enclosed Garden at rear

Guide: £48,000/£53,000

**VIEWING:  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 7th & 8th  
SEPTEMBER @ 11.00 a.m.**

### 100 LESLIE ROAD, PARK VILLAGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Large double fronted Victorian Detached  
Two Reception, Kitchen, Shower Room, Two Double Bedrooms & Bathroom  
Very large Workshop/Store at rear - approx 1,100 sq. ft. Double doors for access at side

Guide: £85,000/£95,000

**VIEWING:  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 7th & 8th SEPTEMBER  
@ 11.45 a.m.**

### 95 NINE ELMS LANE, PARK VILLAGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

On a large corner plot this well presented Semi overlooks parkland  
Two Reception and Study area, Kitchen, fitted Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom  
Gas CH, upvc Windows, Two Drives & Garage, pleasant Garden

Guide: £88,000/£93,000

**VIEWING:  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 7th & 8th SEPTEMBER  
@ 12.30 p.m.**

### 646 PARKFIELD ROAD, PARKFIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON

Large Semi with rear vehicular access and Garage

Upvc Windows, Gas CH  
Two Reception, Kitchen, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, First Floor WC  
Two Outside Stores, attractive Garden

Guide: £58,000/£63,000

**VIEWING:  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 7th & 8th SEPTEMBER  
@ 1.30 p.m.**

### ALBRIGHTON, HIGH HOUSE LANE

Freehold Plot of Land in lovely rural location and having road frontage  
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Guide: £8,000/£12,000

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To find out more, property-seekers can contact the sales executive on 0845 672 4132.

Further information about Taylor Wimpey developments across region is available by calling 0121 703 3400 or by visiting the web site [www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/westmids](http://www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/westmids)



An artist's impression of an 'Oakley' home at Taylor Wimpey's Saddlers Brook

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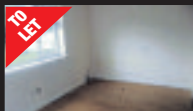
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- Recessed Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Front Fitted Kitchen
- Spacious Rear Lounge, 2 Good Sized Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC
- Fore and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking for 3 Cars

**£96,000**



**Coppice Farm Way  
Willenhall**

- A spacious well presented self contained first floor maisonette
- Gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed
- Spacious lounge, fitted kitchen
- Two good sized bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage and driveway
- Viewing Essential

**Offers In The Region Of £109,950**



**Barncroft  
Great Wyrley, Walsall**

- Spaciously proportioned semi-detached house
- Gas centrally heated and partially PVCu double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Good sized gardens to fore and rear
- 'L' shaped lounge/dining room

**Offers in the region of £110,000**



**School Lane  
Pelsall**

- An ideal opportunity for a First Time Buyer
- Spacious and well presented semi-detached family home
- Gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed
- Front Lounge, Spacious Dining Kitchen, Utility Room/WC
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Fully Tiled Bathroom/WC, Driveway
- Potential Space for a Garage, Large Secluded Gardens

**£113,000**



**Reduced**

**Churchill Road  
Bentley**

- Immaculately presented semi detached house
- Refurbished to an excellent standard, Gas central heating
- Entrance Hall/Stairs, Through Lounge/Dining Room, Beautifully Re-fitted Breakfast Kitchen with High Gloss Units, Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Shower Room/WC, Ample Parking and Neatly Maintained Gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

**£119,500**



**NEW**

**Lombardy Gardens  
The Woodlands, Short Heath**

- A particularly well presented, modernised semi detached starter home,
- Ideal as a first time purchase or investment opportunity alike!!
- Gas Centrally Heated and PVCu Double Glazed
- Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Front Lounge, Rear Dining Kitchen, Two Bedrooms
- Fully Tiled Bathroom/WC, Single Car Detached Garage
- Driveway Parking for 3/4 Vehicles and Neatly Laid Gardens

**£129,950**



**Overdale Drive  
Briersleigh**

- A most immaculately presented Modern Semi-Detached House
- Gas Centrally Heated and mostly PVCu Double Glazed
- Entrance Hall/Stairs, Front Lounge, Rear Dining Kitchen, Utility Area
- 3 Good Sized Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom/WC, Single Car Garage
- Ample Parking and neatly laid Gardens.

**£129,995**



**Gorey Close  
Coppice Farm, Willenhall**

- An attractively situated semi-detached house
- Gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed accommodation
- Lounge, extended dining room, fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms, family bathroom/WC
- Single car garage, driveway
- Easily maintained gardens
- Open aspect to the front
- Viewing Essential

**Offers In The Region Of £138,950**



**Reduced**

**Manor House Close  
Walsall**

- Three good sized bedrooms
- Gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed
- 'Walton Homes' built town house
- Ensuite shower room to master bedroom
- Good sized easy maintenance garden

**Offers in the region of £134,950**



**Reedly Road  
Willenhall**

- An extended and much improved modern Semi Detached House
- Gas Centrally Heated and PVCu Double Glazed
- Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Front Lounge, Rear Dining Kitchen (Re-fitted)
- Extended Family Room, Three Bedrooms, Re-fitted bathroom/WC
- Tandem Length Carport, Detached Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden

**£145,000**



**Broad Lane  
Essington**

- A fully refurbished home with the benefit of no onward chain
- Refurbished semi detached house would make an ideal First Time Buy or Investment opportunity!
- Gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed, Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs
- Front Lounge, Re-fitted Dining Kitchen, Conservatory with Utility /WC
- Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Large Bathroom/WC with Separate Shower Cubicle
- Create Print Driveway for Several Cars, (Potential Garage Space) and Good Sized Gardens

**£149,950**



**Sandringham Avenue  
Willenhall**

- Spacious family sized semi-detached home
- Three excellent bedrooms
- Gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed
- Fully tiled shower room
- Large rear family room/dining area
- Detached brick built store

**Offers in the region of £155,000**



**Open House  
Saturday 8th  
2pm - 4pm**

**Occupation Road  
Brownhills**

- A deceptively spacious detached Bungalow with charm and character
- Through garage access to additional space suitable for parking a Board/Caravan/Vehicles
- Gas Centrally Heated and PVCu Double Glazed accommodation
- Recessed Porch, Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Good sized Breakfast Kitchen
- Rear Verandah/Guest Cloaks, 2 Double Bedrooms, Re-fitted Shower Room/WC, Enclosed
- Carport, Ample Parking and Secluded large lawned Rear Garden, with scope for Extension/Building plot (subject to consent)

**£169,950**



**Reduced**

**Wyvern Close  
Willenhall**

- A well cared for detached family home
- Gas central heating, PVCu double glazing and cavity wall insulation
- Enclosed Storm Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Rear Lounge, Separate Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen, Guests Cloaks/WC, Three Bedrooms, Two Having Built In Furniture
- Fully Tiled Bathroom/WC, Single Car Garage/Stores, and Landscaped Secluded Gardens

**£170,000**



**High Road  
Willenhall**

- A deceptively spacious detached family home
- Gas central Heating, PVCu double glazing, Canopy Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs
- Front Lounge, Interconnecting Dining Room, Large Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility Area, Guest Cloaks/WC, Four Good Sized Bedrooms
- The Master Having an En-suite Shower Room/WC, Family Bathroom/WC
- Integral Garage, Block Paved Forecourt, Enclosed Lawned Rear Garden

**£185,000**



**Brand New!!**

**Monument Drive  
Shareshill**

- Why not move into an impressive detached bungalow!!
- Gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed
- 10 year NHBC Build Mark Warranty
- NO ONWARD CHAIN!!
- Two bedrooms, detached garage
- Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- Large lounge with French doors

**£194,950**



**Westbourne Road  
Butts, Walsall**

- A fully modernised late Victorian End Terrace House
- PVCu double glazing and gas central heating
- PVCu Storm Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Guests Cloaks/WC, Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Re-fitted Kitchen, Third Reception Room or Study, Four Excellent Bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC, Off Road Parking, Attractive Gardens

**Offers in the region of: £195,000**



**Westbourne Road  
The Butts**

- Victorian Detached Family Home, Gas Centrally Heated, Majority PVCu Double Glazed
- Entrance Vestibule, Reception Hall/Stairs, Front Lounge, Rear Dining Room
- Sitting Room, Farmhouse Style Pine Fitted Kitchen, Guests Cloaks/WC, Utility Room
- Four Excellent Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom/WC, Detached Garage
- Secure Block Paved Off Road Parking For Several Vehicles, and Lawned Garden

**£229,950**



**NEW**

**Brownshore Lane  
Essington**

- Recently constructed accommodation benefits from the remainder of a ten year NHBC Warranty
- Gas central heating, PVCu double glazing, Recessed Porch, Entrance Hall/Stairs
- Guests Cloaks/WC, Spacious Lounge, Formal Dining Room
- Excellent Breakfast Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, Utility Room
- Four Generously Proportioned Bedrooms, the Master having a Recently Re-fitted Ensuite Shower Room/WC
- Bathroom/WC, Garage, Ample Driveway Parking, Enclosed Lawned Rear Garden

**£248,500**



**Lichfield Road  
Shelfield**

- A wonderful opportunity has arisen to purchase a fully modernised Detached Bungalow with character
- Detached Gypsy Avenue with One Bedroom, Shower Room/WC, Large Lounge/Dining Kitchen. The main Bungalow has Gas Central Heating
- PVCu Double Glazing and briefly includes: Entrance Hall, Extended Lounge, Beautifully Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Three Excellent Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC

**£270,000**



**Norton Lane  
Great Wyrley**

- A fully refurbished and extended detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed
- Front lounge, expansively equipped dining kitchen
- Four excellent bedroom, master having en-suite bathroom/WC
- Utility room, single car garage, block paved driveway
- Large lawned rear garden

**£299,950**



**NEW**

**Spires Croft  
Shareshill**

- A spacious proportioned 'Bryant' built detached family home
- Exclusively detached executive homes, adjoining open countryside
- Gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed, Entrance Hall/Stairs, Guests Cloaks/WC
- Through Lounge, Dining Room, Re-fitted Kitchen, Utility, Study, Conservatory
- Four Excellent Bedrooms, the Master having an En-suite Shower Room/WC
- Family Bathroom/WC, Two Car Garage, Driveway and 'L' Shaped Gardens

**£325,000**



**Jacobs Hall Lane  
Great Wyrley**

- A stunningly spacious & immaculately presented detached house
- Gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed
- Three spacious reception rooms, expansively fitted kitchen, utility
- Five bedrooms, two with en-suite shower rooms
- Two car side by side garage
- Large block paved driveway, landscaped gardens

**Offers In The Region Of £375,000**



**The Nook, Stafford Road  
Newtown**

- Situated on the Edge of Open Countryside
- Detached Dormer residence Ideal for Extended Families to live under one roof
- Spacious Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Breakfast Kitchen, Guest Cloaks/WC, Conservatory, 4 Bedrooms on ground floor
- Family Bathroom/Shower/WC, First Floor Second Lounge
- Split level Master Bedroom/dressing room with Sharps furniture
- Second Bathroom/Shower/WC, Large Tandem Garage or Store
- Ample secure parking and landscaped setting

**Offers in The Region Of £499,950**

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### COPPICE FARM KESTREL GROVE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style semi
- Superb UPVC double glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fitted dining kitchen with oven and hob
- Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Generous rear garden
- Fitted driveway

**£130,000 OFFERS, IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE**



### NEW INVENTION BRIGHTON CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached residence
- Extended to the rear at ground floor level
- Three bedrooms
- 24ft extended lounge and separate sitting/dining room
- 19ft extended dining kitchen including oven and hob
- Double office
- Lovely established rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Heavy double glazed windows

**£137,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### SUMMER HAYES CASTLE DRIVE

- Pleasantly appointed detached property
- Deceptively spacious versatile accommodation
- Three first floor bedrooms, downstairs bathroom
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Breakfast kitchen and utility room/WC
- Spacious rear lawn and 3rd bathroom
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

**NOW £169,500 NO CHAIN**



### SUMMER HAYES PERRY HALL DRIVE

- Deceptively spacious semi detached property, 3/4 bedrooms (occasional 4th bed off bathroom)
- Refitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- Refitted bathroom with separate shower cubicle



- UPVC external double glazing, gas central heating
- Double length garage with utility area
- Large enclosed rear garden with paved patio
- Black paved off road parking

**NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £155,000**



### COPPICE FARM BUTTERMERE GROVE

- Pleasantly appointed town house style property
- Two bedrooms
- Gas first central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Fitted dining kitchen with integrated oven, hob & pantry
- Refitted bathroom with shower over the bath
- Enclosed rear garden with paved patio
- Off road parking

**£114,950**



### COPPICE FARM BOWNESS GROVE

- Superb modern detached residence
- Cal-de-oc position
- Three generous bedrooms
- In-suit shower room
- Excellent refitted kitchen including oven and hob
- Splendid UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Garage divided into study and storage room
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed windows

**£188,500**



### COPPICE FARM MILES MEADOW CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style link detached
- Three bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes
- UPVC double glazing, gas
- Fitted central heating
- Lounge and dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Refitted first floor bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden

**£150,000 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL**



### ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE

- Traditional style extended detached bungalow
- Much requested location
- Potential to extend (subject to planning permission)
- Two bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- UPVC double glazing, gas central heating
- Two garages, ample gated off road parking
- Established front and rear gardens

**£257,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### NEW INVENTION SQUIRES GROVE

- Well appointed modern style town house
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
- In-suit shower room
- Fitted dining kitchen including oven and hob
- 17ft front lounge
- Downstairs guest bedroom with wc
- Enclosed rear garden
- Off road parking to the fore

**£136,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### SHORT HEATH HUNTS LANE

- Pleasantly appointed and town house property
- Close to the Woodlands nature area
- Three bedrooms
- Fitted dining kitchen
- UPVC double glazing, gas central heating
- First floor bathroom
- Ground floor guest wc
- Allotment parking

**£120,000 OFFERS**



### WILLENHALL ALTON AVENUE

- Superb double fronted traditional style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted breakfast kitchen including oven & hob
- Utility room and downstairs wc
- Fitted shower room
- Gas central heating & UPVC double glazed windows
- Generous rear garden

**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £150,000 NO CHAIN**



### WILLENHALL WEDNESFIELD ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed Victorian style and terrace
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen and utility rooms
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Ground floor guest wc
- Ideal first time purchase

**NOW £79,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**

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### NEW INVENTION BAYNTON ROAD

- Deceptively spacious town house style property
- Well appointed much improved accommodation
- Three generous bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Refitted dining kitchen including oven and hob
- Near lounge with French style doors
- Downstairs guest bedroom with wc
- Enclosed rear garden overlooking local field

**£120,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### HADLEY HEATH. WILLENHALL FAWLEY CLOSE

- Pleasant improved modern style semi
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Carport with double doors to the front
- Attractive enclosed rear garden

**£106,500**



### ESSINGTON BUTTERMERE DRIVE

- A superb extended modern style detached residence
- Four bedrooms, en-suite shower room
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Well equipped extended dining kitchen
- Utility room, downstairs guest bedroom
- Extended study/office
- Lovely established rear garden
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

**WAS £269,950 NOW £259,500 OFFERS**



### COPPICE FARM KINGFISHER GROVE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
- Three bedrooms, en-suite shower room
- Lounge and dining rooms
- Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted kitchen and utility rooms
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Double glazed glassed conservatory

**£184,500 OFFERS FOR QUICK SALE**



### WILLENHALL BARMOUTH CLOSE

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom
- Front and rear gardens
- Excellent potential to improve

**£124,995**



### COPPICE FARM GURNARD CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style and town house
- Two bedrooms, one with built-in wardrobe
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fitted dining kitchen
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Lovely established rear garden
- Side driveway affording off road parking
- Ideal first time purchase

**£114,950**



### WILLENHALL DEVON ROAD

- Three bedroom semi detached property
- Recently modernised & refurbished
- Refitted kitchen
- Refitted bathroom
- Central Heating
- Double glazed
- Bathroom with shower
- Attractive gardens

**£525 PCM**



### DARLASTON CROWN COURT, VICTORIA MEWS

- Modern style two bedroom semi detached property
- Popular development
- Kitchen diner with cooker
- Bathroom with shower
- Terraced rear garden
- Off road parking

**£495 PCM**



### WILLENHALL HIGH ROAD

- Spacious modern style detached residence
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and separate dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen with selected appliances
- Black paved driveway

**NOW £185,000**



### WILLENHALL SANDBEDS ROAD

- Edwardian style detached residence
- Generous plot with parking & two garages
- Four bedrooms, master with en-suite shower
- Living room and 20ft extended lounge
- Well equipped breakfast kitchen with appliances
- Utility room
- Upstairs bathroom
- Lovely established rear garden
- Gas central heating, open double glazed windows
- Excellent potential to improve

**WAS £289,950 NOW £279,950**



### DARLASTON WOLVERHAMPTON STREET

- Spacious first floor flat in convenient location
- Two bedrooms
- Gas warm air central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious 14ft lounge
- Kitchen and shower room
- Communal entrance with security intercom

**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £56,000, NO CHAIN**



### WILLENHALL COLTHAM ROAD

- Well presented two bedroom town house
- Fitted dining kitchen with oven
- Fitted bathroom with shower and bath
- Patio style doors onto rear garden
- Refitted bathroom with shower
- Downstairs WC
- Gas central heated and double glazed
- Garage

**£525 PCM**



### WILLENHALL SANDBEDS ROAD

- Two bed mid terraced house
- Unfurnished
- Front lounge/dining area with feature fireplace
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Gas central heated
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Alarmed
- Paved courtyard with hidden garden

**£450 PCM**





### COPPICE FARM HIGHMOOR CLOSE

- Modern style semi detached on generous corner plot
- Potential to extend (subject to planning permission)
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing
- Lounge and breakfast kitchen
- Sun room and conservatory/lean-to
- Upstairs shower room
- Garage with downstairs wc, gardens to front, side & rear

**£124,950 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED**



### COPPICE FARM BUTTERMERE GROVE

- Superbly appointed extended modern detached property
- Spacious five bedroom family accommodation
- Two reception rooms
- Office/occasional bedroom 6
- Conservatory
- En-suite shower room
- Excellent fitted bathroom with separate shower
- Well equipped breakfast kitchen

**£289,950 OFFERS, VIEWING ESSENTIAL**



### WEDNESFIELD WORTHY DOWN

- Pleasantly appointed link detached bungalow
- Two bedrooms, one with fitted wardrobes
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 16ft lounge with feature fireplace
- Dining room and fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with shower, fitted
- Garage and block paved driveway
- Landed gardens to front and rear
- Internal viewing recommended

**£149,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### SNEYD PARK RADSTOCK ROAD

- Splendidly appointed improved semi detached house
- Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Superb refitted breakfast kitchen with oven & hob
- Refitted bathroom with shower
- Lounge and separate dining room
- Loft room with Velux and drop down ladder
- Garage and pleasant garden to the rear

**£149,500 VIEWING ESSENTIAL**



### COPPICE FARM SNOWDON WAY

- Pleasantly appointed extended detached family residence
- Five bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Lounge and dining areas
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Utility room and downstairs guest cloakroom
- Timber decked and paved rear garden
- Internal viewing strongly recommended

**£215,000**



### WILLENHALL CLOTHIER STREET

- Spacious Victorian style and terrace property in convenient location
- Two bedrooms
- Upstairs bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- Rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Part UPVC double glazed windows
- Ideal first time purchase

**£89,500 NO CHAIN**



### SUMMER HAYES FARBROOK WAY

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority UPVC double glazing
- Lounge and fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- 26ft side garage, off road parking
- Attractive rear garden

**£130,000 OFFERS**



### WILLENHALL FIVE FIELDS ROAD

- Spacious extended traditional style semi
- Popular location
- Three bedrooms and loft room
- Two reception rooms
- Majority triple glazed windows
- Bathroom and separate shower room
- Large established rear garden
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing

**£179,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### COPPICE FARM BUTTERMERE GROVE

- Extended modern style and town house
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority double glazed windows
- Fitted dining kitchen with oven and hob
- Utility room and downstairs wc
- Garage and concrete print driveway
- No related chain

**£140,000**



### BENTLEY, WALSALL BADER ROAD

- Pleasant improved semi detached property
- Ideal first time purchase
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- 'U' shaped refitted dining kitchen
- Refitted bathroom with shower
- UPVC single glazed windows
- Viewing recommended

**£97,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### SUMMER HAYES FENN RISE

- Deceptively spacious, link detached bungalow
- Extended to the side elevation
- Three bedrooms and dressing room
- Bedroom 2 currently used as a second lounge
- Majority triple glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- 32ft double length garage
- Lovely established rear garden

**£164,950**



### WILLENHALL ALAMEIN ROAD

- Traditional style town house
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 19ft fitted dining kitchen
- 16ft through lounge
- Upstairs bathroom
- Generous landscaped rear garden

**NOW £96,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### WILLENHALL YALE ROAD

- Wall appointed modern style detached property
- Four bedrooms, three with fitted wardrobes
- Two reception rooms
- En-suite shower room
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted dining kitchen inc oven & hob
- Through reception hall and guest wc
- Pleasant rear garden
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows

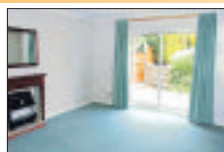
**£230,000**



### NEW INVENTION TAVERNERS CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style property
- One bedroom
- En-suite bathroom with shower
- Lounge & separate dining/sun room
- Fitted kitchen inc oven & hob
- Pleasant enclosed rear garden
- Off road parking
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows

**£87,950 OFFERS**



### COPPICE FARM TORRIDON ROAD

- Pleasant modern style two bedroom bungalow
- Delightful cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with patio doors to the rear garden
- Bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- Off road parking to the fore

**NOW OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £115,000, NO CHAIN**



### NEW INVENTION BEACON ROAD

- Traditional style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Refitted dining kitchen inc oven and hob
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Front and rear gardens
- Part double glazing
- Most speed driveway affording ample parking
- Popular location
- Viewing recommended

**NOW £103,995 OFFERS**



### WILLENHALL LUCKNOW ROAD

- Extended traditional semi detached property
- Situated at both side and rear elevations
- Spacious family living accommodation
- Four bedrooms, two with fitted wardrobes
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority double glazed windows
- Large plot with gardens to front and rear

**NOW £157,500, VIEWING RECOMMENDED**



### WILLENHALL UPLANDS ROAD

- Traditional style double fronted detached bungalow
- In need of internal modernisation
- Excellent potential for improvement
- Gas central heating
- Gas central heating system
- Part UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen and shower room
- Pleasant rear garden

**WAS £114,995 NOW £109,500 NO CHAIN**



### WILLENHALL KNIGHTS CLOSE

- Immaculate modern style two bedroom detached residence
- Neatly bedroom with dressing area & en-suite shower
- In need of some internal modernisation
- Two reception rooms
- Well equipped breakfast kitchen with appliances
- Utility room and guest cloakroom with wc
- Principal fitted bathroom
- Garage and off road parking
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

**WAS £225,500 NOW £219,950 OFFERS**



### WILLENHALL LAKESIDE CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Majority UPVC double glazed windows
- Full width rear lounge
- Fitted dining kitchen inc oven & hob
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Pleasant rear garden
- Ideal for a first time purchaser or a young family

**£56,000 FOR 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP**



### COPPICE FARM BUTTERMERE GROVE

- Considerably improved modern style and town house
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Sweet breakfast kitchen with appliances
- Superior UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Excellent refitted bathroom with corner bath suite and shower
- Most speed driveway affording ample parking
- Popular location
- Viewing recommended

**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £124,950**



### WILLENHALL, OFF STROUD AVE LYDNEY CLOSE

- Pleasant extended semi detached property
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen including oven and hob
- Enclosed rear garden
- Foregathered and off road parking

**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £150,000**



### WILLENHALL LOWRY CLOSE

- Recently appointed town house style property
- Attractive lounge with french style doors to the rear garden
- Spacious fitted dining kitchen with french style doors to the rear garden
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Well maintained gardens to front and rear

**£84,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



### WILLENHALL ASHMORE LAKE ROAD

- Conveniently located two bedroom detached bungalow
- In need of some internal modernisation
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and breakfast kitchen
- UPVC double glazed sun room
- Garage and off road parking
- Pleasant gardens to front and rear

**£100,000 NO CHAIN**



### BENTLEY, WALSALL CUNNINGHAM ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious 19ft through lounge
- Extended sun room
- Breakfast kitchen utility room
- Upstairs shower room
- Upstairs bathroom
- Ideal for a first time purchaser or a young family

**£110,000 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED**



### WILLENHALL ALTON AVENUE

- Superb double fronted traditional style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted breakfast kitchen including oven & hob
- Utility room and downstairs wc
- Fitted shower room
- Gas central heating & UPVC double glazed windows
- Garage & concrete print driveway
- Generous landscaped rear garden

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**Walsall  
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● Three Bedroom Terrace  
● Lounge & Kitchen/Diner  
● Utility & Side passage way  
● New Flooring Throughout  
● DHSS Accepted

**£475 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Nursery Road**  
● Two Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge●Kitchen●Bathroom  
● Downstairs W.C.  
● D.Glazing & C.Heating  
● Front & Rear Gardens●DHSS Accepted

**£475 PCM**



**Blakenhall Heath  
Church Walk, Parish Court**  
● Two Bedroom Apartment  
● Double Glazing  
● Gas Central Heating  
● Secure Entrance  
● Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

**£450 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Victoria Avenue**  
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment  
● Large Lounge●Fitted Kitchen  
● Shower Room●Communal Gardens  
● Secure Parking●Heating & D.Glazing  
● Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

**£450 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Usk Close**  
● One Bedroom First Floor Apartment  
● Fitted Kitchen●Lounge●Bathroom  
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating  
● Shared Communal Gardens  
● Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

**£390 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Wolverhampton Road**  
● One Bedroom Flat  
● Lounge●Kitchen  
● Shower Room●Loft Bedroom  
● Double Glazing  
● DHSS Accepted

**£325 PCM**



**Walsall  
Alexandra Road**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Gas Central Heating  
● Double Glazing  
● Family Bathroom  
● Off Road Parking  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● DHSS Accepted

**£475 PCM**



**Walsall  
Paddington Walk**  
● Two Bedroom End-Terrace  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen/Diner  
● Cloakroom W.C.  
● Bathroom  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Double Glazing  
● Central Heating

**£450 PCM**



**Walsall  
Alderley Crescent**  
● Two Bedroom Terrace  
● Lounge  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Bathroom  
● Gas Central Heating  
● Double Glazing  
● Off Road Parking  
● Rear Garden  
● Sorry no DHSS

**£450 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Rockingham Close**  
● Two Bedroom Flat  
● Communal Entrance  
● Hallway  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen  
● Allocated Parking in Courtyard  
● Bathroom  
● DHSS Accepted

**£430 PCM**



**Walsall  
Duchess Road**  
● One Bedroom Town House  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen  
● Bathroom  
● Kitchen Storage Heating  
● Double Glazing  
● Front Garden  
● Off Road Parking to the Front

**£400 PCM**



**New Invention  
Moxhull Close**  
● One Bedroom Flats  
● New Fitted Kitchen  
● New Fitted Bathroom  
● Double Glazing  
● Central Heating  
● DHSS Accepted

**£325 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Revival Street**  
● Four Bedroom Detached  
● Kitchen●Through Lounge / Diner  
● Bedroom En-Suite●Family Bathroom  
● Gas Central Heating●Double Glazing  
● Garage & Driveway●Sorry no DHSS

**£750 PCM**



**Rushall  
Rough Brook Road**  
● Two Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Kitchen●Lounge/Diner●Bathroom  
● Master Bedroom with En-Suite  
● Kitchen  
● Garage with Off Road Parking  
● Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

**£575 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Stuart Street**  
● Three Bedroom End-Terrace  
● Three Reception Rooms  
● Kitchen●Bathroom●Separate W.C.  
● Front & Rear Gardens●Central Heating  
● DHSS Accepted, No Pets or Smokers

**£550 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Tintern Crescent**  
● Three Bedroom End Terrace  
● Lounge●Kitchen/Diner  
● Family Bathroom●Rear Garden  
● Front Garden with Off Road Parking  
● D.Glazing●Heating●DHSS Accepted

**£510 PCM**



**Walsall  
Gallery Square**  
● Two Bedroom Apartment  
● Lounge●Bathroom  
● Fitted kitchen  
● Double glazing●Heating  
● Sorry no DHSS

**£475 PCM**



**Walker Road  
Blakenall Heath & Guild Court**  
● Two Bedroom Apartments  
● Lounge●Kitchen  
● Family Bathroom  
● Gas Central Heating  
● Double Glazing●DHSS Accepted

**From £450 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Cresswell Crescent**  
● Three Bedroom Terrace  
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen●Double Glazing  
● Upstairs Bathroom with Shower  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

**£440 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Marton Court**  
● Two Bedroom Apartments  
● Fitted kitchen●Lounge●Bathroom  
● Double glazing  
● Electric Heating  
● DHSS Accepted

**£430 PCM**



**Walsall  
Tanners Court**  
● One & Two Bed Apartments  
● Lounge●Fitted kitchen  
● Security entrance  
● Allocated parking  
● Sorry NO DHSS

**From £425 PCM**



**Walsall  
Thornbury Road**  
● One Bedroom Apartment  
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen  
● Bathroom●Electric Heating  
● Double Glazing  
● Allocated Parking●Sorry No DHSS

**£400 PCM**



**Walsall  
Crown Lofts**  
● Modern Studio Flat  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Shower Room  
● Heating●Balcony  
● Sorry No DHSS

**£375 PCM**



**Bloxwich  
Harrison Street**  
● One Bedroom Flat  
● Lounge●Fitted Kitchen  
● Double Glazing  
● Electric heating  
● DHSS Accepted

**£350 PCM**



**Walsall  
Moat Road**  
● Two Bed Flat above retail premises  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen  
● Shower Room  
● DHSS Accepted

**£350 PCM**



**Rushall  
Lichfield Road**  
● One Bedroom Flats  
● Lounge●Kitchen  
● Bathroom●Double Glazing  
● Electric Heating  
● DHSS Accepted

**£300 PCM**

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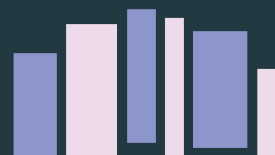
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|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>NEW</b> £625 pcm<br><br><b>Wallows Lane</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An extended 4 bed semi detached</li> <li>● 1 Spacious through lounge</li> <li>● Good size kitchen/diner with island</li> <li>● Upstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Master en-suite and guest WC</li> <li>● Garage, Driveway and rear garden</li> </ul>                    | <b>NEW</b> £600 pcm<br><br><b>Pennyroyal Close</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A modern 3 bed detached property</li> <li>● 1 spacious reception room</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Upstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Master en-suite, Garage and Driveway</li> <li>● Fully enclosed rear garden</li> </ul> | <b>NEW</b> £595 pcm<br><br><b>Rosehip Close</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A modern 3 bed semi detached</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception room</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker</li> <li>● Upstairs family bathroom with shower</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● Guest WC and Driveway</li> </ul>   | <b>NEW</b> £495 pcm<br><br><b>Scarborough Road</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A traditional 3 bed mid terrace</li> <li>● 1 spacious through lounge</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul> | <b>NEW</b> £475 pcm<br><br><b>Scarborough Road</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A traditional 3 bed mid terrace</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>      | <b>NEW</b> £475 pcm<br><br><b>Dora Street</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A 3 bed mid terrace property</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>                         |
| <b>NEW</b> £475 pcm<br><br><b>Franchise Street</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A 2 bed mid terrace property</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating throughout</li> <li>● Good size rear garden</li> </ul>                                       | <b>NEW</b> £320 pcm<br><br><b>Thomas Mews</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 bedroom ground floor apartment</li> <li>● One spacious living room</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen</li> <li>● Family bathroom with white suite</li> <li>● Gas central heating throughout</li> <li>● Town centre location</li> </ul>                       | <b>£699 pcm</b><br><br><b>Mellish Park</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A luxury 2 bed 2nd floor apartment</li> <li>● Open planned kitchen / diner</li> <li>● Modern kitchen with integral appliances</li> <li>● Designer bathroom with master en-suite</li> <li>● Double Glazing throughout</li> <li>● Allocated secure parking space</li> </ul> | <b>£695 pcm</b><br><br><b>Walstead Road</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An extended 3 bed semi detached</li> <li>● Spacious through lounge</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Pantry and Guest WC</li> <li>● Luxury bathroom with separate shower</li> <li>● Garage and driveway for 2 cars</li> </ul> | <b>£550 pcm</b><br><br><b>Alderley Crescent</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A superb modern end terrace</li> <li>● Spacious lounge with Fireplace</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Guest WC and upstairs family Bathroom</li> <li>● 3 Good sized bedrooms</li> <li>● Fully enclosed rear garden</li> </ul> | <b>£550 pcm</b><br><br><b>Old Masters Close</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A modern 2 bed semi detached</li> <li>● 1 spacious reception room</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen/diner with cooker</li> <li>● Upstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● rear garden and Driveway</li> </ul>        |
| <b>£525 pcm</b><br><br><b>Bath Road</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A traditional 3 bed mid terrace</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>                                    | <b>£525 pcm</b><br><br><b>Stanley Street</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An extended 3 bed mid terrace</li> <li>● Spacious through lounge</li> <li>● Modern kitchen/diner with cooker</li> <li>● Upstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Guest WC and good size rear garden</li> <li>● Driveway for 2 cars</li> </ul>                      | <b>£475 pcm</b><br><br><b>Cecil Street</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A superb 2 bed mid terrace property</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Downstairs bathroom with shower</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● Enclosed rear garden</li> </ul>            | <b>£475 pcm</b><br><br><b>Dora Street</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A traditional 3 bed mid terrace</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>         | <b>£475 pcm</b><br><br><b>Dora Street</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3 Bed mid terraced property</li> <li>● 2 Spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Fitted kitchen</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas central heating and double glazing</li> <li>● Dss Accepted</li> </ul>                                      | <b>£475 pcm</b><br><br><b>Moat Road</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A re-decorated 3 bed mid terrace</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● Rear garden DSS accepted</li> </ul>                           |
| <b>£475 pcm</b><br><br><b>Florence Street</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A 3 bed mid terrace property</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>                                 | <b>£475 pcm</b><br><br><b>Terret Close, Walsall</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A modern 2 bed apartment</li> <li>● Open planned lounge/kitchen</li> <li>● Fitted kitchen with some appliances</li> <li>● Family bathroom</li> <li>● Master en-suite</li> <li>● Allocated parking space</li> </ul>                                     | <b>£450 pcm</b><br><br><b>Proffit Close</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A furnished 2 bed end terrace property</li> <li>● 1 spacious reception room</li> <li>● Fitted kitchen with some appliances</li> <li>● Upstairs family bathroom with shower</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>          | <b>£450 pcm</b><br><br><b>Darlaston Road</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A traditional 3 bed end terrace property</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>         | <b>£450 pcm</b><br><br><b>Essex Street</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A traditional 3 bed mid terrace</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating throughout</li> <li>● DSS accepted rent in arrears for HB</li> </ul>           | <b>£450 pcm</b><br><br><b>St Clements Lane</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A 1 bed 1st floor apartment</li> <li>● Open planned lounge/kitchen</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Pleasant family bathroom</li> <li>● Double glazing throughout</li> <li>● Secure allocated parking</li> </ul> |
| <b>£425 pcm</b><br><br><b>Bradford Street</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A re-decorated 2 bed 1st floor apartment</li> <li>● 1 spacious living room</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Family bathroom with shower over bath</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating throughout</li> <li>● Town centre location DSS accepted</li> </ul> | <b>£425 pcm</b><br><br><b>Lewis Street</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A traditional 2 bed mid-terrace property</li> <li>● 2 spacious reception rooms</li> <li>● Downstairs family bathroom</li> <li>● Fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>                 | <b>£390 pcm</b><br><br><b>Bloxwich Road</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A pleasant 1 bed 1st floor apartment</li> <li>● 1 spacious reception room</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Family bathroom with shower over bath</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>             | <b>£375 pcm</b><br><br><b>Bloxwich Road</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Top floor studio apartment</li> <li>● Modern fitted bathroom with shower</li> <li>● Spacious living area</li> <li>● Modern Fitted kitchen units</li> <li>● Dss accepted with guarantor</li> <li>● Rent accepted in arrears for HB</li> </ul>        | <b>£350 pcm</b><br><br><b>Caldmore Road</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A 1 bed duplex apartment</li> <li>● 1 spacious reception room</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Pleasant family bathroom</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>                       | <b>£300 pcm</b><br><br><b>Market Place</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A re-furnished studio apartment</li> <li>● Open planned kitchen and living area</li> <li>● Modern fitted kitchen with cooker</li> <li>● Good size bathroom with shower cubicle</li> <li>● Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing</li> <li>● DSS accepted</li> </ul>   |



# MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS

# CHRONICLE

# MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

## Versatile performer with style and comfort

IT'S an odd phenomenon, but perhaps one which proves the theory of evolution as far as cars are concerned.

In the austere days after World War II, the Land Rover was born as a rough, tough utility vehicle which so suited

those times. Now its direct descendant is one of the most popular cars for celebrities, business leaders and the just plain wealthy of the 21st Century.

At £66,729, that's always going to be the Range Rover Sport's potential customer base but then, compared to the potential opposition, these well-heeled drivers are getting a lot for their money.

Well it's arguably just as luxurious as a prestige limousine, but most rivals don't have the Sport's 'family car for all reasons' capability such as its go anywhere, in any conditions credentials, or its ability to make such light work of towing a caravan or horse box.

The latest Range Rover Sport has undergone a major makeover, but don't expect to spot the differences on the road or the executive car park. The real change is under the bonnet, with the proven three-litre V6 turbo diesel boosted from 242 to 252bhp and a new eight-speed automatic gearbox (instead of six).

**By John Griffiths**

The combination makes the upgraded car feel more lively, a bit quieter and smoother, although if you really want to, you can use the 'flappy paddles' on the steering wheel to hustle the car along windy A roads.

You probably will as you settle in to the car, but it does the 0 to 60mph dash in a brisk 8.5 seconds anyway, so once the novelty has worn off there's no real need: just leave the torquey power plant and silky smooth auto box to do their work.

### Consumption

Perhaps remarkably, fuel consumption also increases from just over 30 to 32.1mpg and CO2 emissions are down slightly to 230g/km.

Despite appearances, the underpinnings of the Sport owe more to the Discovery than its ever so slightly bigger brother, the Range Rover.

But ride comfort is actually better, especially when you tune the air suspension (at the touch of a button) to 'dynamic' mode. It makes the car a little lower and firmer, with less roll and a more positive feel for tackling those typical A and B roads.

This is where the Sport belongs: it really is more dynamic, better handling and more car-like in these sort

of conditions than either its bigger brother or the Discovery. That might be seen as recognition by Land Rover that this is where the car will spend most of its time: it's an off-roader for image purposes only and isn't expected to do more than find a parking place on the gymkhana field.

But that would be wrong: with the same "All Terrain" system as its stablemates, the Sport's driver can just dial in "mud and ruts", "rocks" or any one of half a dozen settings to benefit from the same off-road ability.

Inside, the Sport has had an upgrade to its sound system in terms of both output power and the number of speakers, which is designed to improve sound quality, particularly for those in the rear seats.

The central touch-screen display also has dual-view option so, for example, you can still use the satnav while your passenger watches TV.

Another convenient feature to be added as standard is a power-operated tailgate, very useful if you're returning to the car with the weekly shop, bulky cargo or a dog.

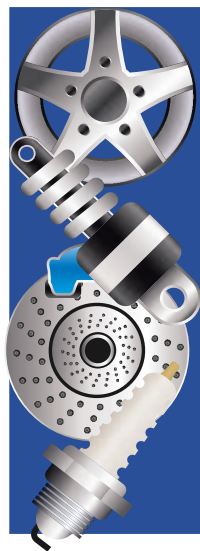
These latest gadgets bring the car's list of luxury features bang up to date, but there are a few things still on the options list.

If you struggle with such a large vehicle in car parks designed for Minis and 1100s in the 1960s, you can get a camera system with an all-round view for £715. The towing pack adds £510.



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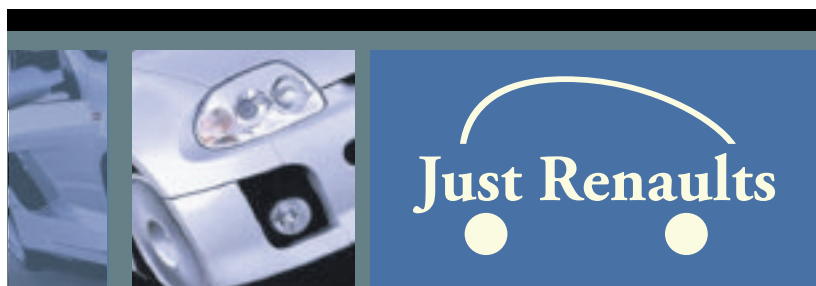
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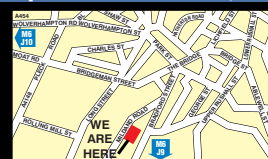
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| 2012/12 Chevrolet Aveo 1.2 VCDi LT ECO 5 Door Hatchback, Boracay blue, 1086 miles                  | £9988  |
| 2009/09 Chevrolet Captiva 2.0 VCDi LS 5 Door Estate, poly silver, 22452 miles                      | £8499  |
| 2012/12 Chevrolet Captiva 2.2 VCDi LT 5 Door Estate, carbon flash, 89 miles                        | £19888 |
| 2010/60 Chevrolet Cruze 1.6 LS Saloon, silver lake, 19599 miles                                    | £7499  |
| 2011/61 Chevrolet Cruze 2.0 VCDi LTZ Exec Pk 5dr Hatch auto, s/nav & leather, carbon flash, 3000 m | £14000 |
| 2009/59 Chevrolet Lacetti 1.8 SX Estate automatic, Silver, 26000 miles                             | £4499  |
| 2008/58 Chevrolet Matiz 0.8 5 5 Door Hatchback, carbon flash, 23963 miles                          | £3699  |
| 2009/59 Chevrolet Matiz 1.0 SE Plus 5 Door Hatchback, carbon flash, 12638 miles                    | £4499  |
| 2012/12 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 plus 5 Door Hatchback, ice silver, 12 miles                            | £6988  |
| 2012/12 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 plus 5 Door Hatchback, Moroccan blue, 3191 miles                       | £6499  |
| 2012/12 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 Plus 5 Door Hatchback, pearl pink, 12 miles                            | £6988  |
| 2010/60 Citroen C1 1.0 VT 5 Door Hatchback, caldera black, 12000 miles                             | £6000  |

### VAUXHALL ASTRA

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 2006/06 Vauxhall Astra 1.4 Breeze 5 Door Hatchback, star silver, 34000 miles                   | £6000  |
| 2009/59 Vauxhall Astra 1.4 SXi 3 Door Hatchback, star silver, 11391 miles                      | £8000  |
| 2009/59 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Twin Top Sport 3 Door Convertible, sapphire black, 22000 miles      | £9000  |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi Excite 5 Door Hatchback, Red, 6428 miles                       | £13999 |
| 2010/10 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi Exclusiv 5 Door Hatchback, power red, 10063 miles              | £10000 |
| 2008/08 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Design 3 Door Convertible, star silver, 25618 miles                 | £8000  |
| 2009/09 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Design 5 Door Hatchback automatic, black sapphire, 33000 miles      | £7000  |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi Start/Stop 5dr Hatchback, power red, 4034 miles            | £14000 |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi Start/Stop 5dr Hatchback, sovereign silver, 2305 miles     | £13000 |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi Start/Stop 5dr Hatchback, olympic white, 6670 miles        | £13000 |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi Start/Stop 5dr Hatchback, olympic white, 8000 miles        | £13000 |
| 2012/61 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 Sri Cdti start/stop Sat nav 5dr Hatch, sapphire black, 9725 miles   | £13499 |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 Sri Cdti start/stop Sat Nav 5dr Hatch, sovereign silver, 8169 miles | £13499 |

### VAUXHALL CORSA

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| 2009/09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.0 Active 3 Door Hatchback, flame red, 36346 miles    | £7000 |
| 2007/57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.0 Breeze 3 Door Hatchback, star silver, 23376 miles  | £6000 |
| 2009/09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Active 3 Door Hatchback, star silver, 15000 miles  | £7000 |
| 2007/07 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Life 3 Door Hatchback, sapphire black, 20226 miles | £5000 |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SE 5 Door Hatchback, Black Sapphire, 3663 miles    | £9000 |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 2008/58 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 3 Door Hatchback, star silver, 8284 miles           | £6499  |
| 2008/08 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi 5 Door Hatchback, star silver, 26000 miles          | £6499  |
| 2012/12 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi AC 3 Door Hatchback, technical grey, 7065 miles     | £9499  |
| 2012/12 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi AC 5 Door Hatchback, silver lake, 1511 miles        | £9699  |
| 2012/12 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi AC 5 Door Hatchback, carbon flash, 12337 miles      | £9499  |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXi AC 5 Door Hatchback, flame red, 5174 miles          | £9000  |
| 2008/58 Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 CDTi Club 3 Door Hatchback, sapphire black, 42000 miles | £6000  |
| 2008/58 Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 CDTi SXi 3 Door Hatchback, star silver, 27500 miles     | £7499  |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SXi 3 Door Hatchback automatic, Star Silver, 4261 miles | £9299  |
| 2011/11 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SXi 3 Door Hatchback, Black sapphire, 15196 miles       | £8499  |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Corsa 1.6 VXR 3 Door Hatchback, Arden blue, 2494 miles            | £13999 |
| 2007/57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.6 VXR Turbo Hatchback, flame red, 20000 miles             | £9000  |

### VAUXHALL INSIGNIA

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 2009/09 Vauxhall Insignia 1.8 Exclusiv 5 Door Hatchback, sovereign silver, 35423 miles     | £8499  |
| 2009/09 Vauxhall Insignia 1.8 SRi Nav 5 Door Hatchback, Sovereign silver, 33000 miles      | £9000  |
| 2010/10 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr Estate automatic, sovereign silver, 41416 miles | £10499 |
| 2010/10 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5 Door Estate automatic, Grey, 43998 miles          | £10499 |
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Nav 5 Door Estate, Technical grey, 12000 miles      | £17000 |

### VAUXHALL MERIVA

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 2011/61 Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 5 air con 5 Door MPV, star silver, 14604 miles | £9499  |
| 2012/12 Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi SE 5 Door MPV, Pepper dust, 2000 miles    | £13699 |

### VAUXHALL TIGRA

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| 2008/08 Vauxhall Tigra 1.4 Design 2 Door Convertible, Antigua blue, 33412 miles | £7499 |
|---|-------|

### VAUXHALL VECTRA

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| 2006/06 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 SRi 5 Door Hatchback, misty grey, 39323 miles | £4499 |
|---|-------|

### OTHER MAKES

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| 2006/06 Mitsubishi L200 Animal DI-D D/C A 2.5 4dr Pick-up auto, thunder grey, 65232 miles | £9699 |
| 2010/10 Peugeot 107 1.0 Urban Automatic. 5 Door Hatchback, electra blue, 13000 miles      | £6000 |
| 2008/08 Peugeot 107 1.0 Urban Move 3 Door Hatchback, electra blue, 41000 miles            | £4799 |
| 2009/59 Peugeot 207 1.4 HDi Verve Hatchback, Black, 28000 miles                           | £7000 |
| 2009/59 Peugeot 207 1.4 S Hatchback automatic, Flame red, 14901 miles                     | £6499 |
| 2010/10 Seat Ibiza 1.6 SE DSG 5 Door Hatchback automatic, ada blue, 13509 miles           | £7499 |



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The new Mercedes G-Class. There are two models to choose from - G 350 Blue Tec and G 63 AMG

## Prices and specs released for new Mercedes G-Class

**PRICES and specifications have been released for the new Mercedes G-Class, including the most powerful version ever to go on sale in the UK.**

The two-model petrol-only line-up starts with the G 350 BlueTec, which will cost £82,945 on the road. Producing 208bhp, its V6 engine maintains the same fuel efficiency at 25.2mpg and 295g/km of CO2.

Its specification has been increased and now incorporates new LED

daytime running lights and a reworked interior that, for the first time, is fitted with Mercedes' neat and efficient Command Online interface.

Also fitted as standard is Parktronic; an audio and visual parking aid. New leather upholstery is fitted in conjunction with heated front and rear seats.

The second and range-topping model is the G 63 AMG, which combines near-540bhp clout with 561lb/ft of torque for immense muscle on- or off-road for £123,115.

Its output figures are 37bhp and 44lb/ft up on the old G 55 AMG's, but with a 13 per cent reduction in CO2

and a 15 per cent improvement in fuel economy, at 20.5mpg and 322g/km of CO2.

The G 63 has more silver and chrome exterior trim, special interior leather trim, liberally splashed AMG logos and the same Command Online and Harman Kardon systems as the G 350. It does, however, gain DAB radio.

Every new G-Class is fitted with permanent all-wheel drive, differential locks, four-wheel Electronic Traction System (4ETS) and a low-range gear reduction to ensure it remains a viable and adept off-road vehicle.

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# Ford takes concept to a new level

By **Iain Dooley**

**SINCE the rise of the recent downsizing trend, adding value to small car platforms has become key to securing sales whether buyers are trading up or down.**

Ford hopes its new B-Max compact people carrier will tempt buyers from both sides of the financial fence, with its mix of practicality, kit, looks and clever sliding rear doors.

You read that right: rear sliding doors on a car based on a Fiesta platform. And yes, you can't see the B-pillar with the doors open because there isn't one.

The preceding years have seen Ford become increasingly proactive in developing interesting technology. The B-Max certainly fulfils this notion by ditching the traditional B-pillars. Granted, rear sliding doors are hardly a new concept, but they are on something this small. We've seen them on big MPVs for years and the main benefits are well known: ease of use and the ability to access and egress the car in tight spaces. Why shouldn't small cars be any different?

Ford has taken the concept a step further, however, by ditching the conventional fixed B-pillar in favour of incorporating it in the doors themselves. When shut, the doors' in-built strength and strategically placed locking points on the body deliver comparable rigidity and crash protection to a regular car. The result is more space when the doors are opened, which should make tending to children in the rear seats easier and boost loading flexibility.

The B-Max is more than just a pair of fancy sliding doors, though. The car has been engineered with fold-flat rear seats and a fold-forward front passenger seat to enable long or bulky items to be carried with little effort. That the respective folding mechanisms are of the one-hand variety adds to the car's appeal.

The flexible boot floor liberates even more space for valuables, which is further proof of the car's family-friendly credentials.

Space inside the cabin is also generous, with ample head and legroom both fore and aft. Children might be more regular rear seat passengers than adults but you're unlikely to hear complaints from the latter even on long journeys.

Up front the B-Max's layout boasts numerous similarities with the Fiesta and Focus, which ensures that everything is close to hand and the various main controls and displays are intuitive and easy to operate respectively.

## Minimise

This trickle-down approach also extends to the availability of new kit such as keyless entry and ignition, plus an auto stop city braking system designed to minimise low-speed accidents.

Worth an extra mention is Ford's SYNC technology, which combines Bluetooth, phone and music player connectivity along with voice control, phone message handling and an SOS function linked to a response service. Granted, this package isn't new but Ford's approach does make it more useable than most others.

Clearly the B-Max has a lot going for it. In the MPV market – large or small – focus is usually on a car's versatility and practicality.

Unfortunately it's often at the expense of driving ability, which is why most tin boxes disappoint.

Not so the B-Max, and it's the final reason why Ford's small people carrier deserves to be in the spotlight.

Maintaining the current downsizing trend and following the Focus, the B-Max gets Ford's innovative three-cylinder, 1.0-litre petrol engine. Tested in 120 horsepower guise (there's also a 100 horsepower option), it offers a good balance of performance, economy and modest CO2 output. In high-power trim, it easily copes with a fully loaded car and is capable of maintaining motorway speeds without complaint.

More familiar petrol and diesel motors complete the B-Max's line-up in 1.4 guise and a 1.5 and 1.6 pairing respectively. That last unit is also an agreeable performer, and although it offers a torquey performance to aid progress up hills, there's no denying that Ford's EcoBoost-branded three-pot petrol engine is a star performer.

The biggest surprise is the way the B-Max drives, however. For a tall-ish compact people carrier, there's very little pitch and roll when on the move, while the various controls – brakes, steering, gearshift – possess a weighty accuracy that's missing from rivals.

In short, the B-Max drives like a regular, well-sorted family hatchback. Only this shouldn't really be a surprise given Ford's form since it introduced the very first Focus. A refined yet engaging driving experience has been a common trait of all cars since that landmark launch.

And such attributes combined with the B-Max's practical, spacious and high-quality cabin – plus those sliding doors – conspire to make the B-Max the stand-out choice in the market.



Up front in the B-Max – everything is close to hand and easy to operate



Ford is hoping that its new compact people carrier will attract a wide range of buyers

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\*Not Available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line models, Ampera or VXR8. \*\* Vauxhall Deposit Contribution not available on Corsa SXi or Mokka. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee or indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH1 1SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer applies to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 1 October 2012. †Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.



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## public & legal notices

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A)  
THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 11) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION  
OF MOTOCYCLE) (NO.2) ORDER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport has  
made an Order on the M6 Motorway in the County of Staffordshire to  
allow paving works to take place.

The effect of the Order will be to close –

- the slip road leading to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at  
Junction 11;
- the slip road leading from the southbound carriageway of the M6 at  
Junction 11; and
- the footway adjacent to the northern side of the circulatory  
carriageway of the M6 Junction 11 roundabout.

Work will be carried out over four nights between 20:00 hours and 06:00  
hours and is expected to start on Monday 17 September 2012. The Order  
will come into force on 10 September 2012.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and  
vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will  
be exempt from the slip road closures. A diversion route via A460, A5 and  
M6 Junction 12 will be well signed. Pedestrians engaged in emergency  
service activity or activities connected with the works will be exempt from  
the footway closure. An alternative footway via the southern side of the  
circulatory carriageway of the M6 Junction 11 roundabout will be well signed.

For further information, please contact Jessica Kenny on 0121 678 8010.

Mike Lloyd A, Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A)  
THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 11) (SLIP ROADS) (TEMPORARY  
PROHIBITION OF MOTOCYCLE) ORDER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport  
intends to make an Order on the M6 Motorway in the County of  
Staffordshire to allow resurfacing work to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip roads leading –

- to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 11;
- to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 11;
- to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 11; and
- from the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 11.

Staffordshire County Council will be carrying out the resurfacing work on  
the circulatory carriageway of the M6 Junction 11 roundabout overnight  
between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours. The work is expected to start on  
Saturday 29 September 2012 and continue for approximately two weeks.  
The Order will come into force on 24 September 2012.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes or by  
a traffic officer will be exempt from the closures. Diversion routes via M6  
Junction 12, A5, A4601 and A460 (for northbound traffic) and vice versa  
(for southbound traffic), will be well signed.

For further information, please contact Ominder Bhari on 0121 678 8122.

Mike Lloyd A, Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

## Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

### NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION FOR HOUSEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT

Proposed development at:

Moncrieffe Street Walsall, WS1 2LA even no's 2 to 98 excluding no 80

Moncrieffe Street WS1 2LB, Odd no's 9 to 103 excluding no 15

Tong Street, Walsall, WS1 2DY, Even No's 2 to 82 and odd numbers 47 to 77

Florence Street, Walsall, WS1 4LG, Even No's 2- 84 and Odd No's 1 to 85

Whitmore street, Walsall, WS1 4LL, Even no's 2 to 44 and Odd no's 1 to 35

Villiers Street, Walsall, WS1 4AW, Even no's 6 to 20

Countess Street, Walsall, WS1 4JZ, Even No's 2 to 80 and Odd No's 1 to 71

Milton Street, Walsall, WS1 4LW, Even no's 120 to 196 and Odd no's 121 to 145

West Bromwich Road, Walsall, WS1 3HS, Even no's 8 to 64 and Odd no's 21 to 63

Weston Street, Walsall, WS1 3HS, Even No's 2 to 68 and Odd No's 3 to 69

Permission to: Apply External Wall Insulation System, comprising mechanically-fixed

phenolic, PIR-modified urethane, expanded polystyrene (EPS) or mineral wool insulation with a glassfibre reinforced render coat and render finish.

Any owner\* or tenant\*\* who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Council at: Planning and Building Control, The Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG

By: 27th of September 2012 (Date giving a period of 21 days beginning with the date of service, or 14 days beginning with the date of publication, of the notice (as the case may be)

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made by the owner\* or tenant\*\* to the Council about this application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations. Any owner or tenant wishing to make representations should do so at the earliest opportunity.

\*owner\* means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years.

\*\*tenant\*\* means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

Signed: Act on Carbon Ltd

Date: 6 September 2012

Statement of owners' rights The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property unless there is some provision to the contrary in an agreement or in a lease.

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

"Householder development" means development of an existing dwellinghouse, or development within the curtilage of such a dwellinghouse for any purpose incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse. It does not include a change of use or a change to the number of dwellings in a building.

This application does not mean you will be receiving the works. You must phone Act on Carbon Ltd on 01246 573483 to request a survey. It does however mean you may be entitled to have the work carried out free of charge if you apply within the next 31 days. It is not means tested.

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning

Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG.

Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990, (Section 73). Applications Affecting a Conservation Area and/or a Listed Building

11/14/2012/EL

Mr Zomadar Ullah

FOR: Retrospective: Roller shutter to shop front.

At: 22/10/2012/EL

Mr Lee Cavill

FOR: Ground floor front and side and rear extensions, first floor side and rear extensions (amendment to roof design and elevational materials).

AT:19 COMMONSIDE, PELSALL, WALSALL, WS3 4QL

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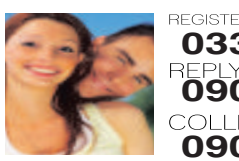
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**CHRIS** attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401 g**

**SAMANTHA** pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a really lust for life, hearted stocky male/dad. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 395035 g**

**YVONNE** lonely 32yr old single mum of one, slim, brown hair, WLTm discreet male for mutual attention without complications. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 395027 g**

**JAN** lonely divorced female with older children looking for male for mature/adult companionship without ties. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 394663 g**

**SARAH** nice looking blue eyed slim brunette, WLTm similar lonely male for fun times hopefully leading to ltr. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 394575 g**

**MADDIE** extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 394565 g**

**PAULINE** divorced female on the wrong side of 40 looking for adult fun with easygoing highly driven man if you get my drift? Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 394463 g**

**SLIM** male, seeks lady 35-45, size 12-18, GSOH for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 394591 g**

**BLONDE** attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818 g**

**BIG** bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501 g**

**LADY** widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247 g**

**SALLY** slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimpaired. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469 g**

**WIDOW** 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013 g**

**EASYGOING** down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893 g**

**LADY** young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117 g**

**39YR** old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 386887 g**

**CLARE** good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 378209 g**

**LOUISE** 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165 g**

**MANDY** 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317 g**

**ALICIA** 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059 g**

**ANNA** 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older well built male to look after. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 395035 g**

**SARAH** 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 378483 g**

**PAULINE** attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535 g**

**SARAH** 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979 g**

**KAREN** witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125 g**

**CARING** lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883 g**

**FARMER'S** granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and C. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204 g**

**POLLY** dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 371127 g**

**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852 g**

**LOVING** caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651 g**

**SUE** 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223 g**

**VICKY** honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: **0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911 g**

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## what's on

## markets

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## Brave goal is too late to rescue the result

**Walsall Wood 1 Bromsgrove Sporting 2**  
WOOD were outfought and out-thought to suffer their first defeat in eight games.

A quickly-taken free-kick in the 31st minute put them on the slippery slope.

Danny Deehan fired the ball into the roof of the net while the defensive wall was still being organised. Home protests were to no avail.

Four minutes later, Deehan almost made it two, blasting a first-time effort off the foot of the post after a fine run and cross by Jamie Parker.

Wood had the last word of the half in this Midland Combination Premier match – and it was nearly decisive.

Lewis Taylor Boyce had a shot blocked and the ball fell to Corey Curriethers, whose low drive brought a super save from keeper Reece Francis.

### High

The resultant corner saw Shawn Boothe the power a header just too high.

Bromsgrove got their second goal just before the hour mark.

A disputed free-kick was rolled forward and Deehan accelerated to the byline before pulling the ball back for Mike Thurbon, who scored with a deflected shot that cannoned into the net off a post.

Walsall grabbed a potential lifeline with five minutes left.

Craig Deakin delivered a free-kick from the right to beyond the far post where Harry Harris scored with a brave diving header.

But the visitors ran the clock down to secure the victory.

## Wellington hit for six

**Lichfield and Walsall District Ask Motors – Premier**  
ASP Victoria 1 Burntwood Star 3, Erdington Star 2 Farmer Johns 5.

**Rio Driving Tuition – League One**  
AFC Bush, Pelsall 3 Freemans A 1, Hazelwood Athletic 6 Lichfield Social B 0, Park Tavern 8 London FC 2, Prince of Wales 2 Red Lion Aldridge 1, Royal Exchange 3 Storrall 2.

**Stretton Paving – League Two**  
Cannock Wood 3 Trent Valley Rovers 0, Hussey Arms 1 Burntwood AFC 2.

**Computa Tec – League Three**  
Cellar Door 0 Doshill Rangers 2, Chase Terrace Victoria 4 Burntwood Dragons B1, Duke of Wellington 1 Green Rock Tavern 6, Freemans B 4 Pheasey Athletic 1, Railway Tavern 3 Bowman FC 6, Shire Oak FC 1, Brownhills Comm.Colts 2, Shire Oak Saints Warriors 1 Ros Park FC 5.

# Bloxwich march on as Khalsa make exit

**Sporting Khalsa 1 Rochester 2**

KHALSA followed up a disappointing FA Cup exit with defeat in the FA Vase.

The home side had a great chance to take the lead after 10 minutes but Rochester keeper Richard Froggatt made a fine double save from Sam Whitehurst and Aaron Hills.

Another chance went begging for Khalsa when Sam Whitehurst hooked his shot inches wide of the post.

It was Rochester who found a cutting edge after half an hour when Edwin Asante-Ahenkorah raced clear to lob the ball over the stranded keeper.

In the second half Asante-Ahenkorah was denied a second goal by Wood who saved with his legs.

Swain knocked the ball past Wood before tapping it into the empty net to put Rochester two up after 60 minutes.

Just under 10 minutes later Brad Lawley got on the end of a corner inside the six-yard box to head Khalsa back into the game, and Rochester had to survive a few nervous moments.

**Bloxwich United 4 Dudley Sports 1**

The Red Lions continued their unbeaten start to the season with a comfortable victory against in the FA Vase. John Freeman notched twice as Bloxwich eased through.

### FA Vase

With the visitors happy to play on the counter-attack it came as no surprise when Bloxwich took the lead in the 20th minute.

Bekir Halil split the Dudley defence with a long ball to Alan Wilkes who nodded down for John Freeman to volley into the bottom corner.

Dudley missed an excellent chance to equalise just three minutes later.

After a rare attack, a loose ball in the Bloxwich box was volleyed over

from six yards out. Wilkes saw a volley easily saved on the half-hour mark and Taylor headed wide after 40 minutes as Bloxwich failed to build on their first half dominance and went in at the break just a goal to the good.

Bloxwich began the second half brightly and made it 2-0 in the 54th minute when Dudley failed to clear a Carl Morris cross from the right and Leon Taylor smashed home the loose ball from eight yards out.

John Freeman notched his second goal of the game on the

hour mark when he raced onto another excellent through ball from Bekir Halil and lobbed the ball over the advancing keeper to make it three to the home side.

Wilkes made it four in the 70th minute when his shot from outside the penalty area flew past the keeper after good work from Freeman.

Dudley netted a consolation goal when their captain Matthew Hearsey, outstanding on the day, capitalised on a mix up in the Bloxwich defence and slotted home to make it 4-1.

## Rushall's record goes up in flames

**Rushall 0 North Ferriby Utd 3**

LACKLUSTRE Rushall Olympic crashed to a comprehensive 3-0 home defeat as their four game 100 per cent record went up in flames at Dales Lane.

The Pies were forced into a reshuffle for this Evo-Stik Northern Premier fixture following the surprise departure of Steve Abbott to Welsh Premier League outfit Airbus UK Broughton and then losing Lucan Spittle to illness.

The loss of key personnel, plus the reversion to 4-4-2 did the hosts no favours as North Ferriby immediately tore into Rushall.

Rushall returned to a more favoured 3-5-2 formation after 17 minutes, but Decio Gomes was forced to drop back into central defence, leaving the Pies somewhat light in midfield.

Nine minutes after half-time, Ben Hunter peeled away from marker Wayne Daniel and struck a fine drive from 25 yards out that beat Gemmell to his left.

Four minutes later the writing was on the wall as the unmarked Gary Bradshaw ghosted in to convert.

It was game over with 13 minutes left when Ryan Kendall walked through to the edge of the box to drive home a fine finish.

It could have been worse but Gemmell saved Russell Fry's penalty awarded for handball against Gomes.

**Rushall Olympic:** Gemmell, Haynes, Keenan (Haynes 78), Tolley, Daniel, Beckett, Stephens, Gomes, Clark (Islam 56), Walker (Landell 56), Brown.

**Substitutes not used:** Naylor, Amos. **North Ferriby United:** Nicklin, Lisle, Peat, King, Anderson, Foot (Gray 54), Hunter, Fry, Bradshaw, Kendall (Muldoon 78), Hall (Bolder 59). **Substitutes not used:** Garner, Percora.

## Chess club is coming 'home'

RUSHALL Chess Club have moved back to the village after years of meeting elsewhere in the Walsall borough.

The club now meets at Rushall Olympic FC at 7pm on Mondays.

New members can choose from playing friendly chess for fun or, when ready, play in the league teams.

Rushall play in three leagues – Wolverhampton, Cannock and Birmingham. The first team finished fifth in Wolverhampton's Division One last season.

Call secretary Steve Wilcox on 01922 403942 or turn up on a club night.

# Saddlers hang on to share the points

### Walsall 2 Brentford 2

**THIS Walsall display screamed 'work in progress'.**

Saturday saw the Saddlers storm into a two-goal lead with first-half goals inside a minute, *writes Craig Birch*. But defensive frailties were evident in conceding two goals late on, although a draw was a fair result.

Taking a point from the Bees should be applauded, given the money their manager Uwe Rosler has been able to splash out.

Just three weeks earlier the Saddlers had dumped Brentford out of the Capital One Cup with a 1-0 victory. This time Rosler's men could call upon young Premier League loanees Tom Adeyemi and Jake Bidwell, brought in from Norwich and Everton respectively, plus goalscorer Paul Hayes. They were all on the bench while, in the Walsall dugout, four of the seven substitutes were youth products, not to mention the three in the starting line-up.

### Threaten

The Saddlers cannot compete financially – and they know it.

Swift Saddlers goals from Jamie Paterson and George Bowerman were answered by strikes from Jonathan Douglas and Clayton Donaldson inside the last four minutes.

The Saddlers were first to threaten on seven minutes and it was the impressive midfielder Florent Cuvelier, who previously contributed with a couple of nice touches, who let fly. The on-loan Stoke midfielder pounced on a free ball and unleashed a shot which was on its way in until goalkeeper Simon Moore tipped it onto the crossbar.

It took Brentford 12 minutes to respond and they went close twice in succession, first when Donaldson headed over Shaleum Logan's cross. Less than 60 seconds later, Toumani Diagouraga made a hash of a volley that rolled into goalkeeper David Grof's hands. Six minutes later Andy Butler had to hack an effort off the line after Sam Saunders had been allowed space.



Walsall loanee Florent Cuvelier lets fly with a shot



George Bowerman celebrates

The Saddlers absorbed the pressure and raced down to the other end and take the lead after 28 minutes. Andy Taylor and Ashley Hemmings combined for the latter to stroke the ball across for Paterson to guide a shot into the far corner.

Within a minute, it was 2-0 as Bowerman took advantage of an unfortunate break for defender Tony Craig to advance and slot past Moore. It could have even been 3-0 before the break. Will Grigg's shot hitting the near post from a Ben Purkiss ball.

Grigg again threatened in the second period, firing wide, and saw another opportunity snuffed out by defender Harlee Dean.

Brentford threw on Hayes to partner Donaldson in the 65th minute and reverted to a 4-4-2 formation in an effort to find a way back into the game. It was Farid El Alagui's turn to rattle the crossbar five minutes later, played in by impressive Brentford substit-

ute Adam Forshaw, who had replaced Toumani Diagouraga after just 34 minutes.

All three substitutes were used by Brentford as Bidwell joined the fray. They set up a tense finale with four minutes left. Grof's punch went only as far as Jonathan Douglas, who fired over the shot-stopper and Butler into the net.

Walsall tried to shut up shop, defender Paul Downing coming on for Paterson in addition to Aaron Williams, who had replaced Bowerman. But they conceded a last-minute leveller, Donaldson on hand to slot home El Alagui's knock-on past the despairing reach of Grof. It could have been worse in stoppage time, Forshaw wrapping his foot round a low drive that cannoned off an unmarked Hayes.

It's a testament to Walsall that they were left disappointed with a draw, it's a game they could easily have lost in seasons past.

## Lockmen and Villa see their hopes dashed

### FA Vase

**Pelsall Villa 0 AFC Wulfs 4**

PELSALL tumbled out of the FA Vase in the second qualifying round by being well beaten at home.

Wulfs went close to scoring in the first minute but from Nathan Rose-Laing's lob, keeper Andy Hughes scrambled back to scrape the ball wide for a corner.

Wulfs broke the deadlock in the 31st minute from the penalty spot after Andy Thompson was tripped. Jake Sedgemore made no mistake.

The lead was doubled two minutes later when Danny Crudgington's cross was nodded in by Thompson.

Crudgington cut inside his marker in the 66th minute to add a third. Seven minutes later, the unmarked Rose-Laing completed the scoring by heading in a cross from Ashley Burr.

**Willenhall 0 Lye Town 3**

Willenhall crashed at their first FA Vase hurdle as opponents Lye comfortably booked a home tie with Cradley Town.

The home team made the worst possible start when ex-Red Damian Whitcombe slung in a far post cross and Richard Anslow was left unmarked to comfortably head home the opener.

Anslow hit the outside of the post for Lye before Kalum Evitts stretched their lead on 54 minutes. The Lockmen never really threatened and Steve Weaver wrapped up a comfortable win four minutes into stoppage time.

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# SPORT

**By George**  
Bowerman nets  
as Saddlers draw  
**Page 51**



**Broken Vase**  
Bloxwich go through,  
but other sides suffer  
**Page 51**

Sports Desk 01902 319461

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

## Dynamic display kicks off season

**Aldridge 66**  
**Birmingham Barbarians 7**  
ALDRIDGE made a cracking start to the new season with this convincing victory over Ba-Bas in the first round of the North Midlands Shield.

A couple of tries within the first five minutes put them firmly in the box seat and from then on they never looked seriously threatened. It was a dynamic display throughout which, despite the warm weather, contained plenty of ambition.

By the end, Aldridge produced 10 tries with eight conversions.

There were some fine individual scores and some team assists. Captain Eddie O'Neill opened proceedings, crashing over close to the posts with winger Alex Yates quickly adding the second out wide.

Winger Ashley Lowe, centre Lee Stokes and prop Tony Harbutt all crossed before the break to make the half-time score 31-0.

In the second half, centre Tony Jaep and scrum-half Adam Reed added to the tally and No.8 Terry Gibbs, in typical fashion, poached a couple off the back row.

The pick of the bunch, though, was a solo effort from full-back Mark Large who went the length of the field, through the entire opposition, to score. Fly-half Chris Jones supplied the conversions.

## Star earn a Vase replay

**Continental Star 2**  
**Ellesmere Rangers 2**  
(set 1-1 at full-time)  
A SHANE PAUL goal in extra time helped Continental Star earn an FA Vase replay.

Visitors Rangers took the lead on 14 minutes as Star allowed Mike O'Reilly to volley into the net.

The home side's best chance of the half fell to striker Daniel Holgate who rattled the Rangers crossbar on 43 minutes.

The hosts drew level on the hour when Aaron Garvey slotted a ball from fellow striker Rikardo Reid into the net.

In the fifth minute of extra time the visitors restored their lead via Andy Rich. Continental then pressed hard for the equaliser and in the 112th minute Paul stabbed the ball home from close range to draw the home side level.

# Boxing booms leads to new club opening

by Craig Birch

DARLASTON is now served by two amateur boxing clubs after a new organisation struck a deal to operate in the premises of the Town Hall.

Amphion ABC have staged their first training session – and those who turned up were able to take part free of charge.

Now the club will look to formally induct members aged nine upwards and hold mixed classes on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

After several years without an amateur boxing club, the town is now experiencing a

boxing boom with two opening in less than three months. Darlaston ABC opened in June at Unit B on the Alma Industrial Estate under head trainer Dennis Daley, who moved from Wolverhampton ABC.

They now face competition from Amphion although both clubs are still waiting to be accredited by the Amateur Boxing Association, which meets this month.

Their boxers can then take part in the ABA-approved national championships,

although that will depend on whether the students are ready for that level.

In the meantime, Rob Piechowicz will serve as Amphion's head trainer, having established himself as a coach with Burton ABC in Staffordshire.

Piechowicz is the father of Tom Shaw, the light-welterweight who won an ABA Schoolboys national title for Burton before turning pro last year.

Wednesfield's Paul Mann and West Bromwich's Wayne Downing will join the team and hold professional trainers' licences, but must have an amateur counter-part.

Mann is a regular in the corner at West Midlands professional boxing events and follows the region's fighters around the country for their ring assignments.

Downing, 32, boxed professionally until retiring for a second time last year but is still heavily involved in the sport in a behind-the-scenes role.

For more information on Amphion ABC at Darlaston Town Hall, on Victoria Road, call 0845 111 2900.

## Brown's goal lifts Pics to top spot

**Ilkeston 0 Rushall Olympic 1**  
**RUSHALL** OLYMPIC moved to the top of the Evo-Stik Northern League Premier Division after this win.

Rushall came forward with much more purpose after the break and this proved crucial as they broke the deadlock after 53 minutes.

Michael Clarke in the inside left channel flicked the ball on to Dave Walker who made it to the byline. The Ilkeston custodian was drawn towards the Pics forward whose brace in the reverse fixture gave the visitors the points a fortnight ago.

Walker was able to force the ball across the face of goal where Lei Brown had made the run from the mid-field slamming the ball into the roof of the net while under the attentions of a home defender.

The Pics responded to their first defeat the previous weekend by handing a debut to former Cheltenham defender Gavin Caines allowing Decio Gomes to return to midfield. Johnny Haynes made his first start of the season coming to play in the left wing-back berth.

In the opening stages the hosts had the majority of possession but it was the visitors that created the first clear opportunity as Brown strode towards goal. It took a lunging block from a defender to clear the ball from the danger area.

The Pics have a rest from league action on Saturday as they head to Bridgnorth, for an FA Cup match.

The Pics then host Frickley Athletic on September 15.

**The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketter, Telford. Thursday, September 7, 2012.**

# ELLIE'S RACES ARE PREMIER EVENTS

**GOLDEN GIRL Ellie Simmonds welcomed Prime Ministers past and present into 'her house' as she claimed a second Paralympics victory.**

The Walsall star added the SM6 200m individual medley crown to her success in the 400m freestyle.

Prime Minister David Cameron and former premier Gordon Brown witnessed a second gold in world record time, and it was Cameron who presented the 17-year-old with her medal, although not to universal approval.

## Paralympics

Fifth after the butterfly leg and fourth at halfway, Simmonds made her way up to second at the final turn where she produced a blistering freestyle – 1.38seconds faster than anyone in the field – to touch in three minutes 05.39sec.

Victory sent the Aquatics Centre into a frenzy as with her S6 400m freestyle win earlier in the Games.

While Cameron was not greeted with universal applause on being introduced prior to the medal ceremony, any boos were drowned out by the raucous cheers and feelgood factor.

## Place

It was not the pair's first meeting. Simmonds, who has dwarfism, said: "I've met him at his house, in No. 10. It's great to meet him in my place, at the pool."

The 17-year-old from Aldridge had also won her 200m medley heat – knocking 1.13sec off the world record she set in March.

"I was quite surprised this was a world record," she said after the heat. "I didn't see what the time was but the crowd were going wild."

An estimated 2.9m viewers tuned in on Saturday to see her enthralling victory in the 400m freestyle. Simmonds' chief rival in the race, American

Victoria Arlen, had broken the Walsall star's world record earlier in the summer.

Arlen led from the off, cutting smoothly through the water. But the high stroke rate of the explosive Simmonds gradually reeled in her rival and as they turned for home in the last 50m, it was anyone's race.

Simmonds, who confessed afterwards "I was exhausted", summoned up one last effort to hit the front and would not be denied.

Her father Steve Simmonds described her reaction to the victory.

"You could see her look up at the time, a big smile come up on her face and she started to lose it," he said.

Simmonds smashed the old record by five seconds to defend her Paralympic title in a time of 5min 19.17sec. She is also competing in the S6 50m and 100m freestyle events.

Meanwhile, Channel 4 has extended its Paralympics coverage after millions more viewers than expected tuned in to watch the competition. It will broadcast daily Paralympics coverage for almost 16 hours.



Gold again – Ellie Simmonds celebrates victory in the women's SM6 200m medley

## Win is a relief for Walsall

**Walsall 23**  
**Berkswell & Balsall 14**  
WALSALL will be relieved with this opening Midlands One West league win.

The visitors, in their first game at this level, played with real purpose in the first 20 minutes.

They opened the scoring but the hosts put together some promising attacks. They were rewarded with a try by Richard Towle, converted by fly half Matty Wood.

The hosts added to their score as Wood put over a 30-metre penalty.

The Bs were forced to transgress and Wood put over another 30-metre penalty to give his team a 13-7 lead.

Walsall got a second try, when a superb tackle by Wood turned over possession. The ball was moved quickly which released Chris Mould. The try was converted by Harvey Wootton. Wood came back to kick another penalty after Clark and Simpson had made powerful runs. The visitors brought the game to a close with a try for full back Fahay, which Bignal converted.

On Saturday Walsall travel to Shirley to face Camp Hill at 3pm.

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